

Maaytah suspects may be questioned

BEIRUT (AP) — The defence attorney for three Palestinians on trial for the assassination of a Jordanian diplomat has charged that police beat them to extract confessions, judicial sources said Tuesday. Attorney Bishara Abu Saad said in a statement to the examining magistrate, Saeed Mirza, that he wants his clients questioned again, according to the sources. Yousef Mahmoud Shaaban, 31, Bassam Abdullah Atiyeh, 30, and Salim Kassem Mehio, 29, have admitted membership in the Palestinian group held responsible for the Jan. 29 slaying of Jordanian Embassy First Secretary Nageb Imran Maaytah, according to the authorities. Atiyeh and Mehio have also admitted complicity, saying they helped Shaaban escape after he allegedly shot and killed Maaytah as he was driving to work from his Beirut apartment. Lebanese and Jordanian authorities have blamed the assassination on the Fatah-Revolutionary Council, a breakaway Palestinian faction headed by Abu Nidal. The three suspects are in solitary confinement pending a decision by the magistrate whether to press charges.

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Resistance, Israelis clash in Lebanon

MARIYOUN (AP) — Israeli forces blasted infiltrating guerrillas with tank fire early Tuesday in Israeli-occupied southernmost Lebanon, killing two and wounding one, security sources said. It was the second major guerrilla infiltration into the area Israel occupies as a "security zone" to shield its northern border since Friday's Hebron massacre of Palestinians by an Israeli settler. The wounded guerrilla fled the scene of the Israeli tank attack. Soldiers in hot pursuit captured him in the morning, said the sources. No Israeli casualties were reported. The guerrillas were later identified as members of Hizbollah. The sources said the guerrillas sneaked about 10 kilometres into the "security zone" before they were detected at Jarra, eight kilometres northwest of Marjayoun, the main city in the Israeli-occupied sector of South Lebanon. An armour unit, its mammoth Merkava tanks blasting its cannons and soldiers firing their automatic rifles, caught up with the guerrillas at Jarra, about 20 kilometres from the Israeli border.

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Papoulias in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias arrived in Tunis on Tuesday for talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Mr. Papoulias, current chairman of the European Union Council of Ministers, is starting a Middle East tour for consultations on the Arab-Israeli negotiations which have been suspended because of last Friday's massacre of Palestinians in Hebron. Mr. Papoulias is due in Amman Wednesday evening. He is expected to be received by His Majesty King Hussein.

ILO team arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — An International Labour Organisation (ILO) fact-finding mission arrived in Amman Tuesday on a three-day visit to gather information on Israeli practices against Arab labourers. The mission will meet with Labour Minister Khaled Ghazawi, representatives of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions, the Amman Chamber of Industry, the federation of chambers of industry and the Royal Commission on Jerusalem Affairs. The delegation members will be briefed by Mr. Ghazawi on the effects of Israeli policies and practices on Arab labourers in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Highway shooting at Jews injures four

NEW YORK (AFP) — Shots were fired Tuesday at a minivan carrying orthodox Hasidic Jews on a New York highway, wounding four occupants of the vehicle, authorities said. Police said the shots came from a car driving alongside the van on the Franklin D. Roosevelt drive, near the Brooklyn Bridge in Lower Manhattan. Three of the injured were in critical condition, according to a spokesman at the St. Vincent Hospital. Those in the van had come from a hospital where they were visiting Rabbi Menachem Schneerson, a leader of the Hasidic Lubavich movement who had a recent cataract operation. The Hasidic community has had rocky relations in the past with black residents in the Brooklyn neighbourhood where the sect is based.

Test of Arrow missile malfunctions

TEL AVIV (R) — A test of Israel's U.S.-funded Arrow anti-missile was cut short Tuesday when ground support equipment malfunctioned, an Israeli defense ministry statement said. It said a "surrogate" missile was launched but firing of the one intended to intercept it did not take place due to an apparent technical difficulty. There have been calls in the United States for the cancellation of the Arrow project due to technical glitches that have plagued its tests.

11 hurt in Beirut soccer clashes

BEIRUT (AFP) — Eleven people were hurt Tuesday in clashes involving hundreds of fans after Lebanese soccer champions Ansar beat Beirut rivals Nejmeh. Police fired shots into the air to clear rival gangs of supporters, witnesses said. President Elias Hrawi recently called together the heads of rival Beirut clubs to take measures to end violence which is increasingly being conducted on religious lines.

Hekmatyar allows food convoy to Kabul

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Afghan Premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has agreed to allow a United Nations convoy to deliver food supplies to besieged Kabul. Officials said here Tuesday. A six-truck convoy will leave from Pakistan Wednesday with 90 tonnes of food for distribution in north and south Kabul. A Foreign Office spokesman said. Kabul residents have been hit by severe food shortages during winter as a result of weeks of fierce fighting.

Finns to join EU

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Finland Tuesday reached agreement on membership of the European Union (EU). German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said. The agreement followed that of Sweden earlier in the day (see page 6), leaving Austria and Norway's terms still to be finalised.

Israel frees 500 detainees; PLO unimpressed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel released about 500 Palestinians on Tuesday in a bid to calm the fury ignited by the Hebron massacre, but Palestinians warned that much more will be needed before Middle East peace talks resume.

Military officials said there would be further releases Wednesday and a total of up to 500 by the end of the week. "I think the Israelis are releasing us now to make the Palestinians happy. This is not a real step for peace," freed prisoner Wael Salameh, 38, said when he arrived in Hebron where Muslim worshippers were slain by a Jewish gunman Friday.

Samir Ghosheh, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee, dismissed the release as "irrelevant to the real issue of providing protection for our people."

He called it "cosmetic surgery" to dampen the violence that has swept the occupied territories since Friday's bloodbath and spilled over into Israel itself, deepening the Jewish state's unease.

Mr. Ghosheh emphasised that the PLO would not resume peace talks with Israel unless "certain guarantees are provided" to protect the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

PLO spokesman Yasser Abed Rabbo said the measures

announced by Israel so far to protect Palestinians following the massacre were "derisory and partial." The PLO "cannot take them seriously," he added.

Talks would remain suspended "until certain conditions are satisfied, including an effective international presence to protect the Palestinians and the disarmament of settlers."

The PLO leadership, meeting in Tunis with PLO negotiators recalled by Chairman Yasser Arafat, decided late Monday not to resume talks with Israel until it got satisfactory security guarantees.

Israel reportedly has offered a package of concessions, but has not officially announced them.

According to the Jerusalem Media and Communications Centre, the Palestinians want Israel to:

- Dismantle some settlements, especially in Hebron and the Gaza Strip;

- Negotiate the future of Jewish settlements in the current round of talks, rather than after three years as originally agreed;

- Allow international protection in the occupied territories;

- Disarm settlers; and

- Increase the number of Palestinian policemen.

Israel has offered some concessions," according to statements by Prime Minister Yit-



Palestinians argue with an Israeli policeman during protests on Tuesday in Arab East Jerusalem (AFP photo)

zhak Rabin, other Israeli officials and media reports.

- International observers to supervise the transfer of power from Israel to Palestinians, but not to intervene militarily.

- Possible dismantling of particularly troublesome settlements;

- A crackdown on radical Jewish settlers, including disarming those who use weapons other than for self-defence and barring some from Arab areas;

- Increasing the size of the Palestinian police force to be deployed in autonomous areas from the 8,500 agreed to in Cairo.

Mr. Arafat told the United States Tuesday an international force was needed to protect Palestinians in the occupied territories and the U.N. Security Council should adopt this demand.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher spoke by tele-

phone with Mr. Arafat about a resolution being debated by the council (see separate story).

The Palestinian news agency WAFA said Mr. Arafat stressed "the need for the Security Council to issue a resolution guaranteeing the safety and security of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, and charging an international force for that (responsibility)."

U.S. continues to block U.N. resolution on mosque killings

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — U.S. and Palestinian diplomats continued holding up a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning the killing of at least 60 Palestinians at a West Bank mosque, delegates attending the talks said.

The Security Council held a late Monday night debate — "to let the steam out," as an Israeli diplomat put it — but a draft resolution was no closer to a vote than when it was first hatched on Friday, only hours after the Hebron massacre.

The United States and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are continuing to disagree over the wording of the resolution, western and Arab diplomats said.

Israeli Ambassador Gad Yacobi said the debate would likely continue Tuesday and Wednesday.

Six of the 15 Security Council members intervened in the debate Monday.

In an unprecedented concession, the United States did not oppose the PLO's official participation in a Security Council debate. The move appeared

designed to win the PLO's restraint in a proposed resolution.

Western sources said the United States seemed more determined than Israel to keep the Palestinians from reaping benefits from the Hebron massacre beyond those laid out in the Sept. 13 declaration of principles they signed with Israel.

In particular, the sources said, Washington was trying to put the brakes on the Palestinian demand for international protection for Palestinians in the occupied territories.

The U.S. State Department, however, announced Monday that it backed a U.N. resolution to send international observers to the West Bank and Gaza Strip as long as the Israelis and Palestinians were in agreement.

State Department spokesman Michael McCurry noted that the Sept. 13 Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement called for a foreign presence, and that the parties should work out such a plan in the context of that pact.

His remarks came following Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's announcement that he would accept an international civilian presence in the occupied Gaza Strip and Jericho in the West Bank.

Israel has long opposed international monitors.

The PLO's U.N. representative, Nasser Al Kidwa, in his opening statement Monday before the Security Council, welcomed Washington's "positive attitude" in not opposing his presence in the debate.

"At the same time we regret to say that we are not pleased to see the Security Council act belatedly in adopting necessary measures," he added, referring to the proposed international protection for his people.

Mr. Kidwa, who is PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's nephew, called the Hebron massacre "the most odious (crime) in our history since the occupation of the territories," by Israel in 1967.

He demanded "urgent and decisive measures" from the

Moscow unveils 'spy for Britain'

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian counter-espionage services have arrested a defence official with ties to the military industry and accused him of spying for British intelligence, the press service of the intelligence services said Tuesday.

The official, arrested on Jan. 15, has admitted to providing information on Russia's latest advances in weapons technology, including details on state financing of military research and plans for military cooperation with foreign countries.

The press service of the counter-intelligence service said the official carried equipment used for spying when he was apprehended and instructions that allowed him to secretly contact the British embassy in Moscow.

ITAR-TASS quoted the head of the press service, Alexander Mikhailov, as saying that the alleged spy had been working for British intelligence for over a year and a half.

Mr. Mikhailov stressed that the arrested official was caught in "full spy attire" and denied that there was any link to the Aldrich Ames affair in the U.S.

The alleged spy was to be tried in military court.

The deputy head of the counter-intelligence agency, Sergei Stepashin, meanwhile told a briefing that about 20 people were arrested on charges of espionage last year and about a dozen more cases were under investigation, ITAR-TASS said.

Mr. Stepashin added that these cases involved foreigners from the Baltic states and countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, including five Georgian nationals.

Authorities withheld the identity of the man arrested. News of the arrest came amid the continuing uproar over the arrests of former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) counterintelligence official Aldrich Ames and his wife. They have been accused of spying for Russia and the Soviet Union.

The United States last Friday ordered the expulsion of a Russian diplomat in connec-

Israel to disarm 100 settlers; army officers ridicule proposal

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Police Minister Moshe Shahal, defining the scope of a pledged crackdown on radical Jewish settlers, said on Tuesday fewer than 100 would be disarmed in the aftermath of the Hebron mosque massacre.

Mr. Shahal said police were hunting for leaders of the anti-Arab Kach movement who had gone off ground after the government announced on Sunday five would be detained without trial. One of the five has been arrested, (see page 2)

Meanwhile, several senior army officers were quoted as saying detaining a few Kach activists is "hardly enough" if the government is serious about cracking down on violent extremists.

Kach member Baruch Goldstein, a doctor who immigrated to Israel from Brooklyn, New York, massacred at least 60 Palestinian worshippers on Friday before he was killed.

Mr. Shahal, reviewing at a news conference measures announced by the cabinet on Sunday, said security forces were drawing up a list of radical

settlers whose guns would be taken away. Asked how many would be disarmed, he replied: "Less than 100."

About 120,000 settlers live in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the PLO has demanded all be disarmed as a condition for resuming talks with Israel on implementing Palestinian-self rule under a peace deal signed in Washington in September.

Kach began in Israel with a hard core of U.S. immigrants but attracted a following among extreme right-wing Israelis.

Mr. Shahal said Kach did not represent the majority of Israelis who have settled in the occupied territories. "There are less than 100," Mr. Shahal said, referring to Kach and an offshoot founded by one of Kach's sons, Binyamin, after the rabbi's death.

"I think we know fairly well who belongs to those organisations," he said.

In parliament on Monday Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin

took aim at Kach supporters, many of whom are religious Jews.

"The murderer... grew out of the swamp whose spiritual sources are here and abroad. They are strangers to Judaism. They are not ours," he said.

"To him and those like him, we say today: 'You are not part of the community of Israel... many in our nation despise you. You are not partners in the Zionist experience. You are a foreign implant. You are a poisonous weed. Sane Judaism vomits you out.'"

A majority of Israelis condemned the Hebron massacre in an opinion poll published Tuesday but more than 14 per cent refused to do so.

Nearly 52 per cent strongly condemned the carnage and 27 per cent condemned it. But 11 per cent said it had to be "understood against the background of Arab terror against Jews."

And almost four per cent of the 500 people questioned praised the killing. The rest

(Continued on page 5)

Four women held as suspects in Lebanon church explosion

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese security forces arrested four women on Tuesday suspected to be linked to the bombing of a Maronite church that killed 10 worshippers, security sources said.

They said the women were arrested at dawn and initial investigations showed they planted the bomb next to the altar during Sunday mass at Sayyidat Al Najat (our lady of salvation) north of Beirut.

The sources said a fifth woman, thought to be the leader of the ring, had fled the country shortly after Sunday's bombing.

There were no further details.

The bomb killed 9 worshippers and wounded 60.

Investigators Tuesday questioned dozens of survivors of the weekend bomb.

Military Prosecutor-General Nasri Lahoud interrogated many of the wounded at their hospital beds about the bombing, judicial sources said.

Mr. Lahoud also questioned people who live near the Maronite Catholic Church in

Jounieh, about 20 kilometres north of Beirut. They were released after the interrogation, said the sources, who requested anonymity. Media reports said up to six residents were questioned.

It was the deadliest act of terrorism since a car bomb exploded in Beirut's Muslim neighbourhood of Basta on Dec. 30, 1991, killing 30 people and wounding 120.

Military experts have determined that the church bomb — consisting of two 81-mm mortar shells wired to a detonator — was set off by a timer.

Another bomb, which was defused, consisted of four shells attached to a detonator and was linked to the church organ.

Government officials have charged Israel with behind the bombing to divert international attention from last Friday's massacre of Muslims at a West Bank mosque.

Tarabay Rahme, prosecutor of the Mount Lebanon region where the bombing occurred, said Sunday and unidentified detainee in a separate case had

previously told police interrogators about an alleged plot to blow up churches in Lebanon.

Authorities interrogated the detainee further after Sunday's explosion but no details were released.

The attack was a setback for Prime Minister Rafik Hariri's efforts to rid Lebanon of the terrorist image it acquired during the 1975-1990 civil war.

The government has come under sharp criticism from the right-wing Christians and leftist Muslim leaders for post-war security loopholes.

But both communities teamed up in a nationwide shutdown Monday to show their solidarity against any attempts to rekindle the civil war, which claimed more than 150,000 lives.

Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood said Tuesday Israel caused the blast at the church and called for revenge.

The banned but officially tolerated organisation issued a statement denouncing the incident as "equally brutal as the

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued on page 5)

Yemeni cabinet to discuss budget, arresting assailants

SANAA (Agencies) — Yemen's cabinet is to meet this week to prepare the cash-squeezed country's budget for 1994 and discuss arresting people suspected of political killings, Aden Television said Tuesday.

Yemen has not officially approved a budget for two years running because of differences between the two major parties, President Ali Abdullah Saleh's General Peoples Congress (GPC) and Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP).

The southern YSP demanded that the arrest and trial of suspects of political killings be included in a reconciliation accord signed by Mr. Beidh and Mr. Saleh in Jordan a week ago aimed at ending its feud with the northern GPC.

Within hours of the signing fighting erupted in Abyan province between northern and southern troops.

The YSP says 154 of its members have been killed since the 1990 merger of North and South Yemen.

The cabinet session, to be

held in Aden on Wednesday and to last until Sunday, will be the first under Prime Minister Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas in more than two months.

Economists said in January that the budget deficit of Yemen, one of the poorest Arab countries, rose by more than a half in 1993 to 42 billion riyals (\$3.5 billion).

Disagreement on whether the 1994 budget should be drawn up in a way that gives local governments more power over their own affairs has delayed its approval, Mr. Attas, a YSP member, told President Saleh in an open letter in January.

Decentralisation, strongly advocated by the YSP, is one of the main clauses of the reconciliation pact signed in Jordan.

GPC and the third partner in the coalition government, the Islamist Islah Party of Parliament Speaker Sheikh Abdul-

ment's control. The television said the budget "will be drafted on the basis of local governments."

The cabinet's meeting in Aden, capital of the former South Yemen, and the expected drafting of the budget on a basis of decentralisation appeared to be concessions by GPC and Islah towards easing the crisis which has erupted into open fighting in places between rival army units, political sources said.

Jordanian and Omani mediators announced Monday that northerners and southerners had agreed to measures to halt fighting which cost at least 20 lives last week in Abyan.

Troops loyal to President Saleh killed six tribesmen and wounded 20 others in a clash north of the capital, a spokesman for the Bakil tribe said Tuesday.

A Defence Ministry spokesman, meanwhile, accused southern troops of shelling inhabitants of the Mulla region in Abyan province in the south.

Intifada reborn in blood of mosque massacre

By Jean-Hervé Deiller
Agence France Presse

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

— To cries of Allah Akbar, masked Palestinian youths lob rocks at soldiers provoking a riot of tear-gas and rubber bullets followed by more stones.

The intifada has been reborn from the blood of the more than 60 Muslims slaughtered by a Jewish settler in a Hebron mosque.

"God is great," echoes down the streets once more as it has done throughout the occupied territories since Friday's massacre.

Trouble erupts for the fourth day running in the Arab quarters of East Jerusalem. The street-fighting tactics of the intifada launched in December 1987, are again being put to use against security forces.

The Shufat refugee camp witnesses some of Monday's heaviest clashes but in Isawiya, Al Suwaneh, Al Tur, Rasal-Amud, Silwan, Jabal Mukabir and beneath the ancient stone gates of the Old City, youths reenact "the revolution of stones."

Such widespread violence has not been seen in Jerusalem since October 1990 when 18 Palestinians were shot dead. The intifada had since been left to the never-say-die hardliners

of the Gaza Strip. The smaller children set the scene. Early in the morning they are out setting tyres ablaze down Saladin Street, the main shopping thoroughfare of East Jerusalem. An army patrol sits barely 100 metres away.

The kids have soon gathered enough bits of wood, iron and rubbish to make a symbolic barricade, which cars can nevertheless negotiate with care.

A few dozen of the bravest, the eldest only about 10, then start to provoke any soldiers that can be found.

After midday prayers, the tension mounts. The first teenagers arrive, their faces hidden by the chequered Palestinian scarves, followed by their leaders. Some have even donned plastic bags to hamper police who try to pick them out for capture later.

They also carry the biggest rocks and have a wicked aim. Slings are favourite weapon and the velocity compensates for frequent inaccuracy.

Soldiers put on metal helmets and load up with ammunition at the back of their jeeps, grenade launchers, rubber, plastic and metal bullets for every occasion.

Meanwhile, life goes on around the confrontation. An old woman appears to hang out her washing on the edge of the



Masked Palestinians prepare to throw stones at Israeli soldiers during clashes on Tuesday in Arab Jerusalem (AFP photo)

road. A shepherd strolls past with his flock.

The military adopts dual tactics.

If there are few stone-throwers, a jeep roars into them firing tear-gas and the youths scarp down little alleys.

Or the advance can be progressive as in the Al Tur area, behind the Mount of Olives, on Monday. Trouble has

started outside the local hospital and the Israelis are determined to clear the entrance.

Two jeeps, eight border policemen one officer against about 100 seasoned stone-throwers.

Tear-gas and rubber bullets fly towards the Palestinian Vanguard as troops move slowly forward until a quick acceleration empties the street of all

but the tear-gas plumes.

As the troops pull back after a few minutes, the youths emerge to take back the street.

The set-piece is over in 20 minutes. It will be played out again somewhere else, perhaps closeby, time and time again throughout the day. Occasionally a U.N. vehicle shows up to try to calm things down or just monitor events.

Kach leaders hiding

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Fellow militants of Hebron mosque killer Baruch Goldstein have gone underground as the Israeli authorities crack down on the anti-Arab Kach movement.

By the time the government announced that the Jewish fanatics would be disarmed, restricted and even detained without trial, the hardliners had disappeared.

The five top wanted men were alerted on their radio transmitters that security forces had launched a manhunt for them Sunday as Goldstein was buried in the extremist stronghold of Kiyat Arba, witnesses said.

They piled into an old Ford Escort and fled, despite a curfew and the deployment of dozens of troops and police in the area of the settlement, adjacent to Hebron, which is supposed to be a closed military zone.

The armed Kach militants were last seen heading into the narrow alleys of the old Jewish quarter of Hebron, home to 500 die-hard settlers.

"Goldstein is a saint, a great man who had the courage to carry out a heroic act," said Baruch Marzel, the Kach leader, at Goldstein's funeral.

Mr. Marzel lives in one of a dozen caravans in the heart of Hebron which the settlers call Tel Rumeida.

Avigdor Haskin, a Kach militant, expressed his approval of the massacre by calling his new-born son "Baruch" and promising to bring him up like his namesake.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said: "This is a group of individuals who are dangerous to the state. Those who followed the killer's funeral cortege calling him a saint are putting the future of our country in danger."

West Bank military commander General Danny Yatom has issued orders to put the five in "administrative detention" — in effect renewable periods of up to six months without trial.

Nonetheless, before fleeing, the Kach men had time to threaten settlers who called for reconciliation and suggested Goldstein's blood crime was less than meritorious.

Two of them even called Israel Radio on Sunday and again on Monday, from "somewhere in Israel" to taunt the authorities.

"The danger represented by this organisation and its small satellites lie in its ability to carry out very violent acts," said sociologist Ehud Sprinzak, an expert on right-wing Israeli extremists.

"Kach members are more dangerous than the Muslim fundamentalists because they have raised violence against Arabs to a hallowed status in the name of God."

Kach, meaning "like that," was founded in 1971 by Rabbi Meir Kahane who was assassinated in New York in November 1990.

Mr. Sprinzak said: "The extremists' aim is to have recourse to violence to avenge the evils perpetrated on the Jewish people over the centuries. The Kach only counts a few hundred activists, all armed and most living in Kiyat Arba and old Hebron."

The Kach has created a "surveillance" network in the area which has struck terror into the Palestinian population through regular night patrols.

Israeli TV recently showed gun-wielding Kach men, some masked, stopping Palestinians walking peacefully through Hebron, insulting them, checking their identity papers.

Some witnesses challenge army findings on massacre

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(AP) — Challenging the army's account of the mosque massacre, worshiper Malihia Jaberi said Israeli soldiers burst into a chamber next to the mosque and opened fire on Palestinians fleeing the gunfire of a Jewish settler.

"Soldiers came in shooting," said Mrs. Jaberi, 54, her head bandaged after being grazed by a bullet.

She is one of several Palestinians raising questions about what happened last Friday when Baruch Goldstein, a supporter of the anti-Arab Kach group, sprayed kneeling Muslims with bullets from his Galil automatic rifle.

The army said Goldstein alone was responsible for about 60 Palestinians killed and dozens more wounded at the Ibrahim Mosque.

But three days after the shooting in Hebron, many questions remain:

How could one man cause so many casualties? Why didn't the army tighten security after they learned of rising tensions between Jewish and Muslim worshippers? Why didn't Israeli guards monitoring closed-circuit TV cameras act sooner? Why wasn't there a tape of the shooting? Did security forces ignore early warning signs that Jewish extremists were planning an attack on a mosque?

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin brushed Monday at Palestinian conspiracy claims, telling parliament that "any attempt to present Israeli soldiers as collaborators in the massacre" is "ridiculous."

Mr. Rabin said all 111 shells in the prayer hall came from Goldstein's Galil.

According to army investigators, Israeli troops in the Tomb of Patriarchs and outside the entrance fired in the air during the confusion that followed the massacre. But none of their bullets hit Palestinians, they said.

The army probe says Goldstein, 38, wore his army reserve uniform Friday when he arrived about 5:30 a.m. at the Tomb of the Patriarchs, a 2,000-year-old monument marking the burial sites of Abraham, Sarah and other Biblical figures.

Jewish settlers must remove the ammunition from their guns before entering the tomb area. But Goldstein, carrying the Galil and four 35-bullet clips, was not stopped by the one officer and four soldiers on duty.

Goldstein did his reserve duty in the brigade that provides security for the tomb area, and it was possible the guards thought he was on duty, said an army official.

Goldstein initially entered the Jewish prayer area where about 15 worshippers, all armed, were praying, the army said. From there, he tried to reach the mosque area but the connecting door was bolted by six locks.

Goldstein then tried two other entrances, before slipping into the Muslim prayer hall through a fourth. From there, he opened fire on about 400 worshippers, said Major General Danny Yatom, the army commander of the occupied West Bank.

Goldstein emptied three ammunition clips and half of a fourth before worshippers lunged at him and began to beat him.

The army has reenacted the shooting and found that a soldier could fire 111 bullets in 30 seconds. "It was very easy to harm a lot of people," Gen. Yatom said.

The guard commander tried to get into the prayer hall, but was pushed back by frantic survivors trying to get out, the army said.

He tried two other entrances but was stopped by Palestinians who blocked the doors, fearing he was another gunman, said Gen. Yatom. Goldstein bludgeoned to death in a corner.

Meanwhile, the two soldiers

serve uniform Friday when he arrived about 5:30 a.m. at the Tomb of the Patriarchs, a 2,000-year-old monument marking the burial sites of Abraham, Sarah and other Biblical figures.

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Iraq did not use chemicals on Shiites, U.N. inquiry reports

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies)

— A U.N. investigation has turned up no evidence that Baghdad used chemical weapons against Shiites in southern Iraq, according to a statement released Monday.

The U.N. special commission for disarmament after Shiites rebels and refugees charged last October that Iraq had used chemical weapons in the southern marshlands.

"The analyses found no trace of chemical warfare agents in the samples," the commission said.

Plant and animal matter and soil and water samples from the region were sent to three different laboratories in U.S., British and French laboratories to obtain greater certainty in the findings, according to the statement.

Charges that chemical agents were used came last September from Iraqi refugees and their supporters.

On Friday, a team of commission missile experts returned from Baghdad reporting progress in the establishment of long-term monitoring to prevent Iraq from developing long-range missiles.

The U.N. panel, which is supervising Iraqi compliance with the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire terms, will recommend a lifting of the international oil and trade embargo on Iraq only after a monitoring scheme is in place and working effectively.

The embargo was imposed after Iraq's Aug. 2, 1990, invasion of Kuwait.

The monitoring system, involving cameras and other sensors, also will help the United Nations make sure Iraq is not developing nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

Hearing on "syndrome" Chemical toxins are possible

causes of illnesses afflicting thousands of Gulf war veterans, experts told a U.S. scientific panel Monday. Sick veterans urged the panel to move quickly, before it is too late to save their lives.

Veterans returning from the 1991 war share many of the symptoms of civilians diagnosed with multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS), said Mary Lamielle, president of the New Jersey-based National Centre for Environmental Health Strategies.

She said that in two years of examining veterans and their families, "I was struck by the remarkable similarity of the patterns of illness that these individuals reported to me to those reporting hypersensitivity to chemicals in the civilian population."

She described MCS as chronic, disabling and sometimes worsening symptoms triggered by an acute chemical exposure.

Ms. Lamielle was testifying in the first public hearing of the committee to review the health consequences of service during the Gulf war, an 18-member panel formed in January by the veterans administration and the Pentagon to assess the mysterious ailments that have come to be known as Gulf syndrome.

Veterans blame exposure to chemical and biological agents for their sicknesses, which include respiratory and cardiovascular problems, fatigue, memory loss and disorientation. Medical studies, however, have failed to pinpoint a common cause.

The panel, headed by Dr. John Bailar III, a statistician at the McGill University in Montreal, was formed amid growing criticism from Congress and veterans groups that the Pentagon was repeating the mistakes it made in failing for years to recognise the consequences of agent orange contamination among Vietnam war vets.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel 7711-19

PROGRAMME TWO
17:30 ... N.B.A. sport
18:00 ... News in French
19:00 ... L'Journal De L'Histoire
19:15 ... News in Hebrew
20:00 ... News in Arabic
21:30 ... Two Close for Comfort
22:00 ... News in English
22:30 ... Equinox
23:15 ... Flight Into Hell

PRAYER TIMES

9:42 ... Fair
10:52 ... (Sunrise) Dulu
11:48 ... Dhuhur
15:04 ... 'Asr
17:36 ... Maghrib
18:53 ... 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish, Tel 810740
Assistance of God Church, Tel 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel 624901
Church of the Annunciation Tel 637441
De la Sable Church Tel 661757
Ternassian Church Tel 623366
Church of the Annunciation Tel 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 63051, Tel 626451

Assistance Catholic Church Tel 771331
Assistance Orthodox Church Tel 772521
St. Ephraim Church Tel 771751
Assistance International Church Tel 625226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel 624328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel 694195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
It will be sunny with temperatures rising steadily and winds variable. In Amman, winds will be northerly, moderate and seas calm.

Min. Max temp
Amman ... 2 14
Aqaba ... 10 25
Djess ... 1 20
Jordan Valley ... 8 23

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman ... 25
Aqaba ... 28
Djess ... 22
Jordan Valley ... 25

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

man 17, Aqaba 23, Humidity readings: Amman 22 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Fakhri Tach ... 855980
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad ... 846070
Dr. Bassim Qaddumi ... 686033
Dr. Muhammad Al Ghoul ... 740731
Fina pharmacy ... 661912
Fondows pharmacy ... 778336
Al Asena pharmacy ... 677055
Nauroukh pharmacy ... 636731
Al Salam pharmacy ... 640445
Yacoub pharmacy ... 637660
Shimoush pharmacy ... 623672
Narrouh pharmacy ... 847632

DRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Qanu ... (—)
Al Quds pharmacy ... (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Randa Shaham ... 995710
Khaldit pharmacy ... 965417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ... 637111
Civil Defence Department ... 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue ... 630341
Civil Defence Emergency ... 199
Traffic Police ... 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade ... 691228
Blood Bank ... 775121
Highway Police ... 843402
Shimoush Hospital ... 696390
Public Security Department ... 63621
Hotel Complaints ... 645801
Price Complaints ... 661176
Water and Sewerage ... 897467
Complaints ... 767111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ... 121
Overseas Calls ... 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs ... 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs ... 661101
Jordan Television ... 771111
Radio Jordan ... 660101
Water Authority ... 640101
Jordan Electricity Authority ... 815615
Electric Power Company ... 636381

RJ Flight Information

Queen Alia Intl. Airport ... 08-532001
Queen Alia Intl. Airport ... 08-532002

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre ... 81381332
Khaldit Maternity, J. Amn. ... 642816
Akhil Maternity, J. Amn. ... 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity ... 642362
Malhas, J. Amman ... 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani ... 6641714
Shimoush Hospital ... 669131
University Hospital ... 645945
Al-Muabir Hospital ... 667279
The Islamic, Abdali ... 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali ... 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ... 7710113
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ... 77511126
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ... 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital ... 66224051
Amal Hospital ... 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ... 09-983323
Zarqa National Hospital ... 09-980560
The Sana Hospital ... 09-980722
Al Hama Modern Hospital ... 09-990790
IBRA:
Princess Beama Hospital ... 02-755555
Greek Catholic Hospital ... 02-722725
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital ... 02-747100

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. 08-532005, where it should always be verified

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:00 ... Aqaba (RJ)
06:30 ... Rome (RJ)
06:45 ... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
06:50 ... Beirut, London (RJ)
07:00 ... Istanbul (RJ)
07:10 ... Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
07:20 ... Colombo (RJ)
07:30 ... Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
07:40 ... Riyadh (RJ)
07:50 ... New Delhi (RJ)
08:00 ... Aden (RJ)
08:10 ... Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
08:20 ... Sanaa (RJ)
08:30 ... Rome (RJ)
08:40 ... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
08:50 ... London (RJ)
09:00 ... Istanbul (RJ)
09:10 ... Brussels, Paris (RJ)
09:20 ... Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
09:30 ... Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
09:40 ... Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
09:50 ... Rome (RJ)
10:00 ... Cairo (RJ)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indonesians demand punishment for Israel

JAKARTA (R) — Several hundred Indonesian students, chanting "Go to hell the United States and Israel," have demanded Washington punish Israel for last week's massacre of 43 Arabs, the official Antara news agency reported on Tuesday. The students, in a peaceful protest held on Monday outside the U.S. consulate in Medan, North Sumatra, 1,400 kilometres northwest of Jakarta, accused the United States of allowing Israelis to kill Palestinians. "The United States claims itself to be the world champion of human rights, but it cannot take action against Israeli human rights violations," said Afidol, leader of the demonstration, which was sponsored by the Association of Islamic Students. The protesters chanted Allahu Akbar and shouted "go to hell the U.S. and Israel" and "Hebron massacre hurts Muslims throughout the world." Two student leaders were later invited into the consulate for 15 minutes of talks. Antara said, Indonesia condemned as "despicable" the massacre on Friday in the West Bank and said it would affect the Middle East peace process, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said. Indonesia, home to the world's largest Muslim population, said in its capacity as chairman of the non-Aligned Movement it would consider follows a wave of protests that began last year when mainly Muslim students demanded a state-run lottery be abolished on grounds it was immoral and against Islamic law. The government scrapped the lottery in November. Up to 2,000 students held a noisy demonstration last week outside the U.S. embassy in central Jakarta, protesting against the return home of two staffers alleged to have been involved in drug trafficking.

Thai police conclude Saudi jewel case

BANGKOK (AFP) — Thai police handed a "top secret" report to Interior Minister Chaovalit Yongchaiyud Tuesday after concluding an enquiry into a multimillion-dollar jewel theft and alleged police complicity in the aftermath. An interior minister official said the report was given directly to Mr. Chaovalit by Police General Prachin Boonyachinda, representing national police chief Pratin Sanitprapop. The official said the report, submitted amid rumours of imminent arrests in the case, was labeled "top secret." He said there was no information on its contents. The case stemmed from a Thai servant's theft in 1989 of some \$20 million in gems from the palace of a Saudi prince where he was working. The servant fled home to Thailand where he was arrested. But part of the jewelry recovered by Thai police was not returned to the owner, and much of what was handed back turned out to be fake. Eight men, all but one a policeman, are already on trial in the case. The aftermath of the theft has poisoned relations between Thailand and Saudi Arabia, which in 1990 downgraded its embassy and stopped issuing visas to Saudis. At the time, some 150,000 Saudis were working in Saudi Arabia, sending home millions of dollars annually. The Nation daily quoted a high-ranking Thai Foreign Ministry source as saying Riyadh had advised that Thai-Saudi diplomatic ties would be restored to ambassadorial level in seven months "if Thai authorities could settle the case in March as they have promised."

Turks march in support of secular state

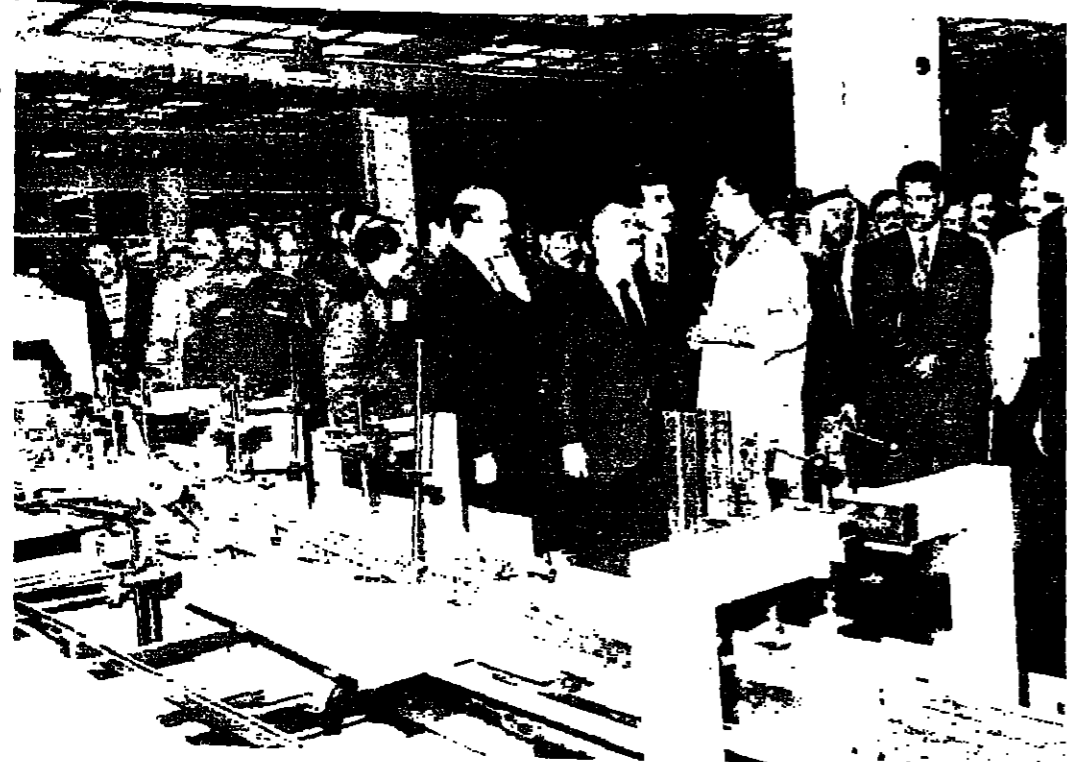
ISTANBUL (AFP) — About 20,000 people demonstrated here Monday in support of keeping Turkey a secular state and against calls by fundamentalists for an Islamic regime. The demonstration was called by two political parties in the ruling coalition in response to criticism levelled in parliament by Islamic deputies at modern Turkey's founding father Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. Twelve deputies, including seven from the Islamic Prosperity Party (PP), called for a parliament debate on the 1924 execution of people opposed to the secular republic created from the ashes of the Ottoman empire after an illegitimate child and "a product of fornication" triggering a public backlash against the fundamentalists. Mr. Mezarci has now quit the PP and is expected to give up his parliamentary seat. Addressing the crowd in Taksim Square in the European part of the city, Prime Minister Tansu Ciller called on Turks to say "no" to those who "exploit religion" for political ends. "No-one can use his right to free speech to insult the mother of Ataturk," she told the demonstrators who chanted "Turkey will not be another Iran" and "Turkey is a secular state and will stay that way." The leader of the main opposition party, the Motherland Party, Mesut Yilmaz, laid a wreath Sunday at the Ataturk mausoleum. However, most opposition parties with the exception of the ultra-nationalist Nationalist Action Party have accused the government of using the issue for electoral purposes only four weeks before municipal polls.

Gaza picture wins annual award

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Patrick Baz, a photographer in Jerusalem with Agence France-Presse, won a first place prize in the national press photographers picture of the year contest for a photograph of a girl fleeing gunfire. The picture, taken in Gaza, was chosen from among 830 entries in the newspaper spot news category. Five other AFP photographs received awards of excellence in the annual contest, the world's largest for photo-journalism with some 1,500 photographers entering more than 22,000 photographs. Robert Giroux, of AFP's Washington bureau, received the award of excellence in the newspaper general news category for a picture titled "Clinton with football." The same award went to Mr. Baz in the newspaper feature category for "Hats off for Hassidim," to Eric Feilerberg of AFP's Paris headquarters for "Jews walk by Palestinian flag" and Larry Roberts of AFP's Washington bureau for "Israeli soldier with fiancé on bus." Jean-Loup Gautreau, of AFP's Paris headquarters, received an award of excellence in the newspaper sports action category.

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:05 ... Rome (AZ)
06:35 ... Cairo (MS)
06:50 ... Jeddah (SA)
07:30 ... Sanaa (YV)
14:05 ... Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PI)
16:15 ... Paris, Damascus (AF)
17:45 ... Beirut (ME)



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday tours the cardboard box manufacturing plant of the new Jordan Industrial Resources Company at Sahab Industrial City (Petra photo)

Crown Prince inaugurates JD 5m establishment at Sahab Industrial City

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday inaugurated the Jordan Industrial Resources (JIRC) Company which comprises a cardboard box manufacturing plant and an industrial fatty acids and glycerine factory.

JIRC General Manager Omar Shaaban, who accompanied Prince Hassan on a tour of the new establishment, said that the JD 5 million company is owned by 10,000 shareholders and employs 150 plant employees and technicians. Mr. Shaaban said the cardboard manufacturing plant also specialises in printing posters and school textbooks, and the industrial fatty acids and glycerines plant is the first such factory in the Arab region.

He explained that fatty acids and glycerines are essential components in the manufacturing of soaps, paints and some medicines, and the factory would be producing 1,200 tonnes annually.

Mr. Shaaban said that the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) supervised the installation of certain sections of the factory, which was set up by Jordanian technicians and engineers. JIRC Board Chairman Ram-

zi Muasher, who welcomed Prince Hassan at the inaugural ceremony, said in a brief address that the company is utilising environmentally safe equipment.

The Sahab Industrial City now houses 320 industries of which 100 export commodities to Arab and European nations. The total number of employees at these factories is estimated at 11,000.

Attending Tuesday's inaugural ceremony were Senator Raja'i Muasher, Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Marwan Awad and other prominent individuals.

Jordan remains one of the safest countries for tourists — minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — Tourism Minister Mohammad Adwan said the two incidents in which foreign tourists were slightly injured in stabbing attacks in downtown Amman earlier this week were "very regrettable, very non-Jordanian," adding that the Kingdom remained one of the safest countries for tourists in the region and even throughout the world.

Jordan, which welcomes more than half a million tourists annually, has few incidents of violent assaults to speak of, said Dr. Adwan.

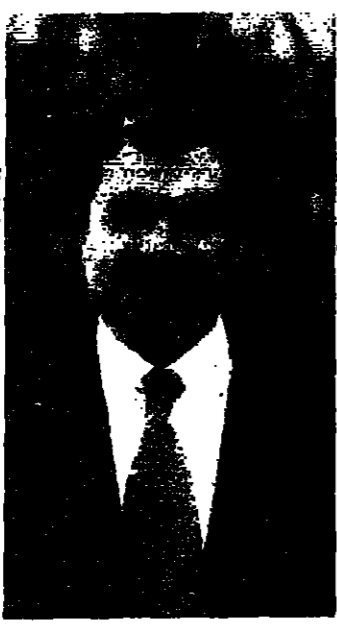
It is a stable and secure country, and the Jordanian society has a strong sense of community and social conscience which has always guaranteed its people and visitors an extra measure of security, the minister said.

Citizens, expatriates and tourists concur that the Jordanians are a hospitable, generous and accommodating people, Dr. Adwan said.

"This is not a country with the enormous social problems of a large urban metropolis," said the minister. The Public Security Department's (PSD) weekly reports on crime indicate that small-time burglaries top the list of crimes at an average of about 8 per week.

"In a country with a population of 3.9 million," said Dr. Adwan, "the rate of crime in Jordan is nearly negligible."

The minister, in an interview with the Jordan Times,



Mohammad Adwan

said both incidents against tourists were committed by lone assailants, acting on impulse, who were subdued by passersby and apprehended by the police.

Dr. Adwan, who Monday visited Mr. Long (the British tourist who was hurt Friday) at the King Hussein Medical Centre, said he was gratified that both affected tourists had fully recovered. The minister also issued a free invitation to Mr. and Mrs. Long and members of their family "whenever they wanted to come back to Jordan."

The minister said the Hebron massacre is bound to affect the whole region, but Jordan has lived through serious times and has throughout maintained moderation, calm and poise.

"We pride ourselves in our recognised hospitality. Luckily the latest incidents have not impeded the increasing flow of tourists in the country," said Dr. Adwan, stressing that "the government will deal with any harassment of tourists and visitors with the harshest measures possible and we will not tolerate in any way any misbehaviour towards our guests."

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King receives cables marking Armed forces arabisation Day

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Tuesday marked the anniversary of the Arabisation of the Jordanian Armed Forces. Upon orders from His Majesty King Hussein on March 1, 1956, General John B. Glubb, then Chief of Staff of the Jordanian Armed Forces, was replaced, and Jordanian officers took up the command of the Kingdom's military. Marking the occasion Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Taher Masi, the director general of the Civil Defence Department (CDD) and General Intelligence Department (GID) and the commander of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) in Jordan, Brig. Mohammad Abdul Rahim Qudsih, sent congratulatory cables to King Hussein, praising the King's courageous step at a time when the entire Arab World was suffering from foreign influence. The cable messages included wishes for the King's continued good health and happiness.

King condoles Hrawi

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for His Majesty King Hussein, Jordan's Ambassador to Lebanon Fakhri Abu Taleb Tuesday attended the funeral of the sister of Lebanese President Elias Hrawi in Zahlah and offered the King's condolences to the Lebanese president.

Crown Prince hosts iftar for officers

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday hosted an iftar in honour of senior officers of the Armed Forces, the Public Security, Civil Defence and the General

Intelligence departments. After conveying to them the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Prince Hassan briefed them on current issues and the situation prevailing in the region. Prince Hassan and his guests performed the Maghreb prayers together. Later in the evening Prince Hassan visited the command of the Third Royal Armoured Division where he met with its commander and senior officers and was briefed on its duties and training activities.

Cabinet reviews report on RJ

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Tuesday met to review a report on Royal Jordanian's (the national carrier) situation. The Cabinet will discuss the report today (Wednesday). A British consultancy firm is currently conducting a feasibility study to come up with the best mechanism for privatising the airline. The study is expected to be finalised this month.

Health ministry creates drug supply office

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas Tuesday created a new office for supplying essential drugs and charged his advisor with heading the office. The new office will import some basic drugs, which have so far been monopolised, for sale to citizens at reasonable prices. The minister also decided to set up a new drug-pricing committee to include a financial advisor, a drug marketing expert and a representative of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) who will be providing technical advice on drug prices. Meanwhile health authorities Tuesday destroyed 800 cartons of tomato juice weighing 9.6 tonnes because their validity date had long expired.

Ministry to set up drug abuse treatment centre

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Ministry of Health plans to set up a specialised centre to treat patients suffering from drug addiction in Shafa Badran district near Amman, according to Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas.

Because Jordan lacks the proper facilities and qualified cadres to deal with the problem of drug abuse, a specialised British organisation has been contracted to conduct a feasibility study for the project at a cost of JD 120,000, said the minister.

According to Dr. Malhas, the ministry is also seeking assistance from British establishments in designing a prototype and training Jordanians and is requesting finan-

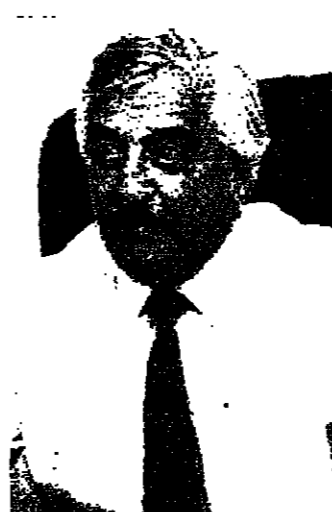
cial aid from the German government to execute the project.

The minister said that the Fuheis Hospital, which specialises in the treatment of the mentally disabled, has a section which provides advice and treatment to drug abusers.

But the help provided is limited and most patients who are either referred to the hospital or seek treatment voluntarily seldom return for follow-up, explained the minister.

Seven to 10 addicts may register at the Fuheis Hospital on a single day, but none return the second day for regular treatment, he added.

With the increase in the number of drug addicts, the ministry recognised the need to build proper facilities for



Abdul Rahim Malhas their treatment. Dr. Malhas said. In his address to Parliament deputies at an iftar ban-

quet last Saturday. His Majesty King Hussein said there are at least 7,000 drug addicts in Jordan, adding that drug abuse is currently more prevalent among the youth than it had been in the past.

The Anti-Narcotics Unit at the Public Security Department (PSD) had said in the past few years that Jordan has no serious drug problem and that most of the illicit substances seized here were smuggled into the country from drug-producing nations and were destined for consumers in neighbouring states.

But a report in the local press Tuesday said that 430 names were added to the PSD's list of drug addicts in the Kingdom during 1993.

Brigadier Hisham Ensour, the Anti-Narcotic Unit direc-

tor, was quoted as saying that drug addiction was spreading among students returning from abroad, but there were no means of determining the exact number of actual addicts though their numbers were growing noticeably.

He attributed the increase to economic, demographic, educational and social changes in the Kingdom.

Dr. Malhas said that it is important to first introduce legislation to determine the rules for countering drug addiction and the type of addiction that would require rehabilitation services at the planned centre.

He said the ministry hopes to start construction and fitting the centre with equipment before the end of the year. The project is expected to cost JD 2 million.

CBJ to announce bank reopenings in occupied lands

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) is expected soon to announce a date for the reopening of Jordanian commercial banks in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, officials said Tuesday.

The officials said the Israeli central bank had approved CBJ preliminary licences issued to five banks to reopen eight branches in the occupied territories.

"Some bureaucratic procedures remain to be completed, but an announcement by the CBJ could be announced soon," said one official.

The first wholly Palestinian bank, the Commercial Bank of Palestine, with a \$14 million capital is expected to start operations in the occupied territories on March 15.

Banking officials here expected Jordanian banks to reopen their branches in the occupied territories around the same date.

No official comment was im-

mediately available from the CBJ.

Among the banks that are expected to reopen as soon as the final CBJ approval is granted are: the Arab Bank, Jordan's largest commercial bank, which will function in Nablus and Gaza, the Bank of Jordan (Jenin), the Jordan National Bank (Nablus), the Jordan-Gulf Bank (Nablus), and the Arab Land Bank (Bethlehem and Gaza).

All these banks except the Jordan-Gulf Bank had branches in the occupied territories before 1967. The licence for Jordan-Gulf Bank was issued in consideration that Al Mashrek Bank, which has since merged with Jordan Bank, had branches in the West Bank.

The Cairo-Amman Bank, another Jordanian bank, which reopened in the West Bank in 1986, will also be brought under the direct control of the CBJ.

The way for reopening Jordanian commercial banks was cleared when Jordan and Israel signed an agreement in

December under which the banks would operate under Jordanian banking laws in the occupied territories and would only have a token obligation of sending periodic reports to the Bank of Israel.

The Dec. 1 accord allowed for the reopening of the pre-1967 branches of Jordanian commercial banks in the West Bank, which was under Jordanian rule and where Jordanian banking regulations applied until Israel occupied the territory 27 years ago.

Following that accord, Jordan and Israel negotiated an "annex" to the agreement to include Jordanian bank branches in the Gaza Strip, which was under Egyptian control and where Egyptian banking regulations applied until 1967.

Jordan delayed going ahead with the reopening of the banks until the Kingdom and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed an agreement on economic cooperation on Jan. 7. That agreement broadly outlines the shape of economic ties between the occupied territories

and Jordan, including the monitoring of the banking and monetary affairs by a joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee.

Officials have said the CBJ role in the banking and monetary affairs was warranted since the Jordanian dinar will be in circulation in the occupied territories, and it was up to the Palestinians to decide what should be their "legal tender."

In economic cooperation talks with the PLO, Israel has been resisting the Palestinians' quest to set up their own central bank and monetary authorities and issue a separate currency.

Even if the PLO managed to wrench Israeli permission, bankers say, it is not feasible for the organisation to issue a new currency if only because it lacks the means to provide adequate coverage in foreign exchange or gold.

A local newsletter this week appeared to cast a doubt on the assumption that the dinar will be the currency of the Palestinian street in the occupied

territories.

It said Palestinians in the occupied territories were increasingly using the Israeli shekel in their daily dealings while opting for the dinar only for purposes of official transactions, including real estate sale and purchase.

PLO officials have said that the shekel would have to be one of the currencies in circulation in the occupied territories during the interim five-year autonomy period envisaged under the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO agreement.

They point out that more than 50,000 Palestinians are employed in Israel and collect their wages in Israeli shekels.

"Apart from all other considerations, it is illogical to even think of setting up thousands of exchanges at the crossing points into the occupied territories to change the shekels into dinars or any other currency," said a PLO economist.

"So, for the time being we have to allow the continued circulation of the shekel."

Royal decrees endorse health care rules and military pension law amendment

AMMAN (Petra) — Four Royal Decrees were issued Tuesday endorsing different revised and newly-introduced regulations and laws.

The first endorsed a revised regulation on fees collected by the Health Ministry for licensing private hospitals. Under the revised regulation, licensing fees for any private hospital with no more than 15 beds will be JD 1,000. Hospitals with more than 15 beds, but less than 30 will be required to pay a licensing fee of JD 2,000 and hospitals with 30 to 50 beds will pay a JD 3,000 fee. The regulations stipulate that hospitals with more than 50 beds must pay JD 20 for every bed in excess of the first 50.

The second Royal Decree endorsed a new regulation on food safety. Under the regula-

tion, a new Food Management Council will be established at the Ministry of Health. Among other things, the council will draw up the general policy on health control of food items and draft plans to ensure food safety and quality.

The third decree endorsed a new regulation on the examination of drugs. Under the regulation, no drug consignments will be cleared from customs until results of laboratory tests establish that they are in conformity with approved specifications of drugs.

The regulation makes it incumbent on drug importers to submit samples of imported or locally-produced drugs to the laboratory, which will issue a receipt stating the date of the

samples were received by the laboratory and other necessary details.

One sample of each batch should be examined at the laboratory, according to the regulation. It also provided for examining and reexamining drugs on sale at pharmacies at no charge, upon instructions from the Health Ministry.

The fourth decree amended one article of the law on retired servicemen. The amendment entitles certain retired army officers, other than those with the rank of field marshal and general, to a pension commensurate with the rank they were entitled to at retirement. This means that officers who retired prior to their entitled rank promotions will benefit from the amended article.

Panel raises JD 500,000 for Hebron massacre victims

AMMAN (Petra) — The higher national committee charged with raising contributions for the families of victims of the massacre at Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron last Friday has collected more than JD 500,000, according to Ahmad Helayel, the committee spokesperson.

Following a committee meeting chaired by Chief Islamic Justice Izzeddine Al Khatib Al Tamimi, Dr. Helayel also announced that a special committee has been set up in the occupied Arab territories to investigate the circumstances surrounding the massacre carried out by an American Jewish settler.

At the Lower House of Parliament Tuesday, the Palestine and Occupied Arab Territories Committee issued

a statement condemning the Hebron massacre as a "barbaric crime perpetrated and executed in collusion with the Israeli authorities."

In New York, acting head of the Jordanian Mission to the United Nations Fuad Bataineh urged the Security Council to take appropriate measures to ensure the protection of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation.

Addressing a special session of the Security Council called to discuss the massacre, Mr. Bataineh said protection for the Palestinians and their property and the holy places was vital to ensuring the continuation of the peace process and the attainment of a lasting and honourable peace in the region.

Municipalities law amendments explained

AMMAN (Petra) — Proposed amendments to the Municipalities Law which are currently before Parliament call for dividing the Kingdom's municipalities into four categories and holding simultaneous municipal elections in all towns, explained Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Ahmad Akaleh.

The amendments propose that the first category include the municipalities located in the governorates, the second category be comprised of those in the districts of no less than 15,000 inhabitants; the third includes the municipalities in the sub-districts with no less than 5,000 inhabitants; and the municipalities in other areas will be included in the fourth.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition by artist Shaker Al Girmal entitled "Studies in the Jordanian Environment" at the Phoenix Art Gallery for Art and Culture.
- ★ Plastic exhibition by several artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Jordanian products at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of works of art by the Arab Centre for Vocational Training at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Riham Ghassib at The Gallery Inter-Continental Hotel.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Jalal Arigat at Ab'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. except Fridays).
- ★ Art exhibition by several artists at the Alia Art Gallery (8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.).
- ★ Exhibition of medical herbs at the Royal

- Cultural Centre.
- ★ Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-midnight).
- ★ Art exhibition by Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre (7:00 p.m.-midnight).
- ★ Wood carving exhibition by artist Samer Ousama at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ "Permanent" exhibition of 54 Arab contemporary artists at Darat Al Funn of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman (Tel. 643251/2).
- ★ Art exhibition by several Iraqi and Jordanian artists at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

DRAMAS

- ★ Drama in Arabic entitled "The Happy Man" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Drama in Arabic entitled "Al Taratir" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

SEMINAR

- ★ Seminar entitled "Woman and Small Projects" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

Lebanon holds 4 women in church blast

(Continued from page 1)

Hebron mosque massacre, which it said was Israel also responsible for.

"The Israeli intruder enemy is continuing his filthy crimes in attempting to divide our nation by killing worshippers inside the mosque and attacking Christians in their church," the statement added.

The statement urged all Arabs, Muslims and Christians, to unite "to liberate the land and avenge the spilled

blood."

Just hours after the victims were buried several Lebanese Christian political leaders turned on the government, demanding that it fulfil its responsibilities by identifying and punishing the bombers.

Many agreed the government was wrong to focus its attention on ambitious projects to rebuild Lebanon's war-shattered infrastructure when it should first strengthen security and address social issues.

The head of the Maronite Church, Monsignor Nasrallah Sfeir, set the tone at a funeral service Monday at the church.

"All the Lebanese have the right to a life of freedom without fear, frustration and inequality," Mr. Sfeir said.

"Saying that such things happen in other countries is not enough for us. Elsewhere the culprits are found and punished, but here they are not identified because of negligence or incompetence."

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Parallel in dangerous acts

AS HIS Majesty King Hussein said in the aftermath of the bombing of the crowded Maronite Catholic church in Jounieh last Sunday, while worshippers were in the midst of their prayers, it is the same evil mind that touched off the church bomb as the one that pulled the trigger on worshippers at the Ibrahim Mosque. The worshippers in both cases, "were killed by a criminal mind whose evil intentions were not different from the one who perpetrated the Hebron massacre."

Even though the scale of the two acts were not identical, their nature was in essence similar. This is true even though the nationality or religion of the killer or killers might be different.

The Arab World has suffered from and complained justifiably about the double standards of the Western world in its treatment of the conflicts in the Middle East region. The Arab people can be expected, therefore, to react with the same fury and anger at the Maronite church slaughter as they did in the wake of the mass killing of Palestinians at the Ibrahim Mosque. The Arab side can also be expected to condemn any similar acts of violence against innocent civilians whoever they are and whatever their faith may be.

In the case of Sunday's massacre in Jounieh, the actual perpetrator of the crime has yet to be identified although fingers are already being pointed at Israel or Israeli agents, if only they stand to benefit the most from the act by deflecting attention to Lebanon following the heinous crime in Hebron. Israel has a history of blowing fuses in Arab countries either to sow distrust and fighting among the people or to turn the spotlight away from its self-created troubles.

This time, however, it could also be an act of criminal folly committed by an insane or deranged man or by a person or persons acting on behalf of a local faction or foreign power. There is the possibility that the planners of Sunday's attack could have been targeting the reconciliation process in Lebanon just as Baruch Goldstein had the peace process between the Arabs and Israel in mind when he committed his heinous act.

There is a parallel between the two events as both attacks spilled blood to wreak havoc with what has been painstakingly achieved on both fronts.

The necessary conclusion that has to be drawn from all acts of violence conducted by forces of extremism in the region is that fanatics must not be rewarded and that greater efforts must be exerted to thwart their objectives and aims. The reconciliation process in Lebanon must remain on track just as the peace process must not be derailed, after the basic requirements of protecting the Palestinian people are met in the second case.

Otherwise, the evil minds that carried out Friday's and Sunday's criminal acts could succeed where others failed.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AFTER THE crimes committed by Israel in Hebron and Lebanon, there can be no excuse for the Arab countries to delay further their reconciliation and not to halt their dispute and divisions, said a columnist in Al Ra'i daily Tuesday. The Arab is duty-bound to unite their ranks against their common enemy who continues to kill Arab citizens, destroy Arab homes and pillage Arab property and wealth, said Sami Al-Mursh. The blood shed in the mosque of Hebron Friday and that shed at the church in Lebanon Sunday was Arab blood. Zionism does not differentiate between one Arab and another in the drive to achieve its ends, said the writer. Israel is the sole beneficiary of the killing of Arab citizens and together with, and supported by, the United States government, Israel is committing atrocities to trigger internal Arab strife, to make it look impossible for Arab states and various Arab tribal factions to co-exist and seek peace with Israel and keep the Arabs weak and in disarray, he said. He said that the perpetrators of the two attacks in Hebron and in Lebanon are the same, and the aim is quite clear: to shake the Arab people's self-confidence and weaken the Arab Nation.

COMMENTING ON His Majesty King Hussein's statement to denounce at the Royal Court concerning drug addiction in Jordan, a columnist in Al-Dustour said that addiction is a problem that assumes a national dimension and therefore requires solutions at the national level. According to the King, 7000 drug addicts now exist in the country, and the majority of addicts are young people, but nothing is being done by the Health Ministry to deal with this question in the most appropriate way, said Ahmad Shaker. The writer said that the Health Ministry has recently closed a unit at the mental health hospital in Fuhes that used to treat addicts and left the task to no one and no proper authority, since the country lacks a qualified team of specialists to handle the problem. It has been clear to the authorities that addiction is spreading among university students in Jordan and that most of the drug addicts are those who studied abroad, said the writer. Regardless of the fact that the police in Jordan are doing what they can to control the situation, said the writer, the local community, in addition to the health authorities, are nonetheless responsible to see to it that proper and drastic measures are taken to deal with the situation.

WASHINGTON WATCH

Correcting misconceptions first step to sound Arab-U.S. relation

By Dr. James Zogby

DISCUSSIONS WITH both Arab and American journalists and political analysts make it disturbingly clear that on several levels, our two societies do not understand each other.

We do not know each other's histories or social and political structures. And often times we each display a failure to understand or appreciate central aspects of each other's cultures. Evidence of these misunderstandings abounds.

For example, Arabs correctly note the bias and negative stereotyping of both Arab culture and Islam in each of the U.S. media. But it is equally correct to note the many defamatory articles about the U.S. in some Arab publications.

The writers of the articles in question frequently present caricatures of the "other" society based on surface impressions and incomplete information, often coloured by an ideological bias. And this is as true of some Arab journalists writing about America as it is of some American journalists writing on Arabs or Islam.

Similarly, political analysts, both Arab and American, all too frequently make incorrect assessments of political decisions made by the "other" side. Because there is a lack of appreciation for the political dynamics at work in each of the societies, analysts often simplify or mystify these processes, the complexities of which they do not understand.

Some Arab writers, for example, can understand nothing more about U.S. foreign policy than using the mystified cliché of it being under "conspiratorial Zionist control." This overly simplistic view of U.S. foreign policy decision-making is matched by those American writers who reduce all Arab states' policies as driven by a blind "anti-Israel animus", as if there were no real history or real issue concerns to which those policies are a response.

What is needed, at this point, is a deeper exchange and dialogue between our two worlds and a commitment to be open to understanding.

In the beginning the two central issues that require greater understanding and appreciation are for Arabs to comprehend the history of U.S. democracy and the ways that the resulting political dynamics shape U.S. policy; and for Americans to understand the role that Arab culture and, at times, Islamic solidarity plays in shaping the political attitudes of the Arab World.

Most of the world only knows American democracy as a slogan or sees it as an abstraction. It is not merely voting or running for elective office — it is a process and a culture. And American democracy is best known not as the abstract perfect picture that is presented in brochures, but in its history — the history of the struggle of many American groups to expand the democracy and make it real.

The system is not perfect and is open to abuse; but history has shown that the system is changeable and abuses can be corrected when groups organise, take advantage of their power and act to bring about changes that are in their interest. That is how African-Americans, women and other minorities (including Arab-Americans) have worked to expand their influence in the U.S. system.

Political decision-making in the U.S. is subject to the pressures of the democracy. The success pro-Israel American-

Jews cannot be attributed to some "conspiracy" or "control" but, as I explained in an earlier set of articles, is due to the fact that they committed their resources and energies to make the democratic process work for their interests. And there is some continuity in U.S. policy because, despite some advances by Arab-Americans, the pro-Israel community remains a powerful and pre-eminent political force in fundraising for candidates, voting as an organised bloc and projecting a unified message that continues to dominate the U.S. political debate on Middle East issues.

The lesson for Arabs and Arab-Americans is clear. To change U.S. policy one must first understand the nature of the system and its decision-making process. And then one must be committed to engaging in that process, play by its rules, and organise to change it.

To mystify the process and then denounce its products as immoral is only a cry of helplessness — it will not make change.

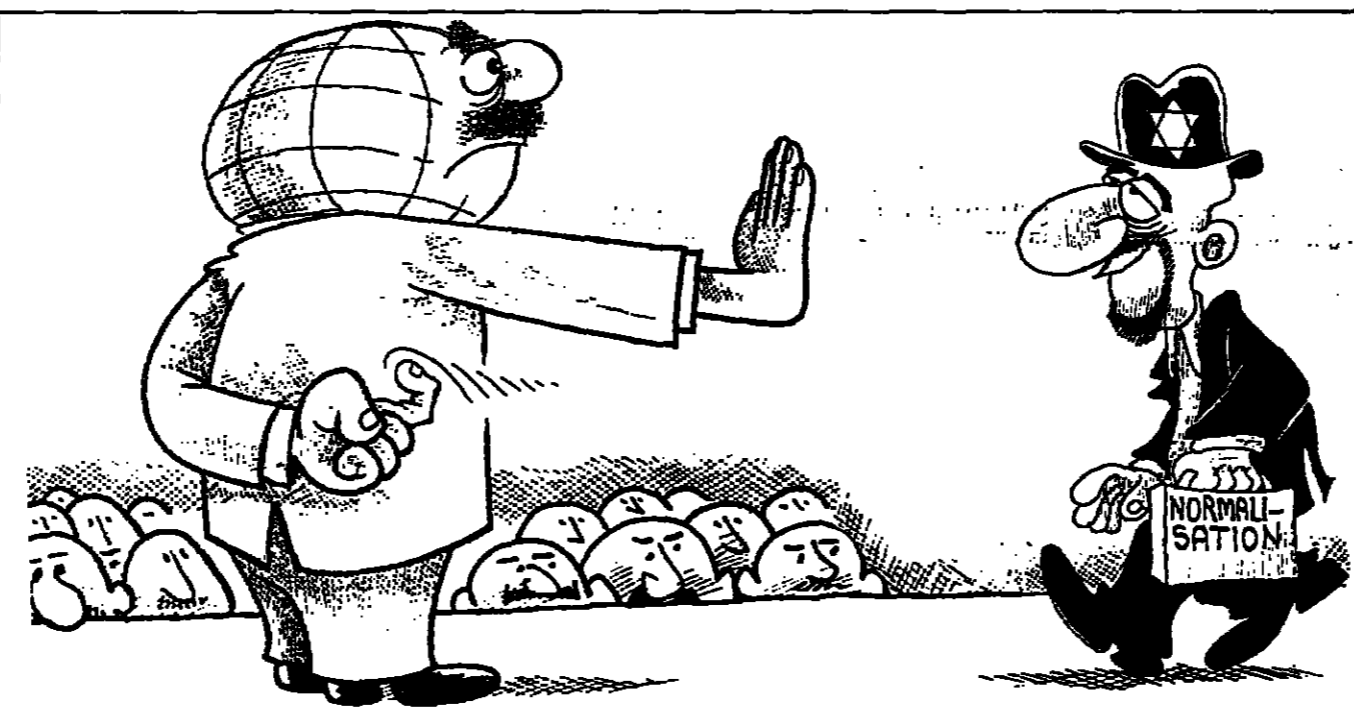
"The lesson for Arabs and Arab-Americans is clear. To change U.S. policy one must first understand the nature of the system and its decision-making process. And then one must be committed to engaging in that process, play by its rules, and organise to change it."

To the extent to which U.S. policy affects the Arab World, and there is agreement that the impact is considerable, Arabs need to devote themselves to understanding the inner workings of the U.S. system in all its aspects: the information system, the legislative process, the electoral system and even how various government agencies work and interact with each other and what they offer to those who learn how to take advantage of them.

Learning from other successful efforts to use the democratic process to change policy can yield important lessons as to how Arabs might proceed, even at this date, to make U.S. policy more responsive to their concerns.

While some Arabs have not understood the workings of U.S. democracy, Americans have not understood the role of "Arabness" and Islam in the shaping of Arab culture and decision-making.

It was shocking to see the U.S. one year ago, launch an initiative on Bosnia and then consult with European allies as if the Arab or Islamic communities were not affected by the crisis that was killing tens of thousands of innocent Muslims in that country. Similarly, it remains puzzling to Arabs that U.S. analysts fail to see the pivotal role that the issue of Palestine plays in shaping the attitudes of Arabs and Muslims worldwide.



The battle ahead

With hardliners free, Russia could face new wave of political violence

By Deborah Seward
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — With leading hardliners at large, Boris Yeltsin could face a new wave of violence organised by his opponents as they seek to rally their supporters and make a political comeback.

Most of the former prisoners lay low Sunday on their first full day of freedom after their release under a parliamentary amnesty. Only Viktor Anpilov, one of the most vocal hardliners, was on the street urging followers to unite in fighting Mr. Yeltsin.

It may take former vice president Alexander Rutskoi, ex-parliament speaker Russian Khasbulatov and other freed hardliners some time to find their way around a political landscape that has changed dramatically since they were jailed five months ago for their role in the Oct. 3-4 unrest.

Once key political players, they are now far from centre stage, with leading roles in the opposition being played by ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and Communist Party chief Gennady Zyuganov.

Mr. Khasbulatov, who looked broken when he walked out of Lefortovo prison, said he did not plan to return to politics. That would eliminate one of Mr. Yelt-

sin's most bitter political rivals.

But Mr. Yeltsin could face a renewed headline challenge in the streets.

Former KGB chief Vadim Bakatov predicted that "many former Lefortovo prisoners will rush to gather a crowd for anti-presidential actions."

Mr. Anpilov, leader of the Russia Labour Organisation, said his first task would be "raising workers' collectives to fight against the regime."

A veteran organiser of violent street demonstrations, "I suspect the people who were allowed to walk out of Lefortovo will do their best to destabilise the situation...They are capable of going to the extreme," said Lev Ponomarev of the Democratic Russia Movement.

Mr. Anpilov led a May Day protest that left one policeman dead and nearly 300 people wounded.

Newly freed hardliners Gen. Albert Makashov, Ilya Konstantinov, leader of the banned National Salvation Front and Alexander Barkashov, the head of the Neo-Fascist Russian National Unity Party, also support the use of force.

Another alarming possibil-

ity is an alliance between ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and the released hardliners.

Mr. Zhirinovskiy, whose Liberal Democratic Party won nearly a quarter of the vote in the December parliamentary elections, holds the upper hand in any dealings with Mr. Rutskoi and company.

With strong popular support among civilians and the military, Mr. Zhirinovskiy has a power base in parliament and what appears to be solid financial backing.

Five months ago, the freed group was considered so dangerous Mr. Yeltsin called in the army to blast them out of the parliament building for defying his order to disband. He then threw them in jail.

Although Mr. Yeltsin initially "announced the new parliament's amnesty, he ignored it... his state of the nation address... Thursday and took no decisive steps to prevent the release."

Sergei Shakhrai, leader of the pro-Yeltsin Russian Unity and Accord Party, felt the amnesty could lead to a coalition among Russia's political forces. Others felt it could mean chaos.

"I suspect the people who were allowed to walk out of Lefortovo will do their best to destabilise the situation," said Lev Ponomarev of the Democratic Russia Movement. "They are capable of going to the extreme."

rivalry — as his own backers were in the December elections.

He is bolstered by a foreign policy victory, when Russia successfully urged the Bosnian Serbs to withdraw their guns from Sarajevo. He has also deprived hardliners of their main issue by slowing the pace of economic change.

But his handling of the amnesty raised new questions about his leadership.

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Mr. Yeltsin may hope his opponents are weakened by

LETTERS

The futility of violence

To the Editor:

LAST MONTH, our country has abruptly encountered a series of aggressive and most hateful acts that aimed at threatening its stability. These acts started with the assassination of Jordanian diplomat in Beirut Nayb Maaytah and included the blasts in Rivoli theatre in Amman and Salwa movie theatre in Zarqa.

What surprises me greatly is the ironic sense of protection that the perpetrators of these crimes assume. Those who assassinated Mr. Maaytah could have been driven by their opposition to the peace process and Jordan's involvement in it. And those who planted bombs in theatres screening pornographic movies have harmed themselves fiercely and have, more importantly, created a victim out of an enemy.

I cannot understand the way such people think. Who told them that they can bring about change through violence? Who told them that the peace process will collapse when they kill a diplomat? Moreover, how come they want to force this country with its wise leadership to abandon its commitments to work for the welfare of Jordanians, Arabs, and Muslims worldwide?

Almost all of us agree that unethical movies must not be screened in a country that respects its religions and abides by its values. However, we should express our views through channels other than violence. It's really deplorable that such people didn't learn that an aggressive and ad hoc treatment of any wrongdoing will certainly backfire. Had the assassins, therefore, meant to change things to the better, they wouldn't have sailed in the wrong direction. There are always other civilised channels to achieve the best treatment of any issue, especially in democratic countries.

In Jordan, even in the Cabinet and in the House, we have arguments and counter-arguments. We have people supporting the peace process and others standing firmly against it — none of the two parties, however, had committed any wrongdoing against the other. Democracy gives the right to each ordinary citizen to reveal his/her thoughts and beliefs. Since the case is so, why to adopt roundabout ways that can do nothing but aggravate the situation?

In sum, people's safety is something that could by no means be bargained. Everyone of us should handle his/her responsibility in this respect. We must cooperate to keep our country away from violence.

Mohammad Saleh Al Masri,
Yarmouk University, Irbid.

U.S. blocking resolution

(Continued from page 1)

international community and "a new policy" on Israeli settlers in the occupied territories.

Earlier, U.S. diplomats criticised U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali's offer to send U.N. observers to the territories following last week's massacre. U.S. spokesman James Rubin said the letter sent Saturday by Dr. Ghali to Mr. Rabin offering the U.N. team was not "particularly helpful or useful."

Mr. McCurry stressed that it was up to the two parties concerned to decide on how the plan was carried out and that foreign monitors should not be forced on them unilaterally.

The Israeli mission to United Nations said it would accept a draft resolution condemning the massacre in Hebron, but not Israel, and providing for an international pre-

sence. But it would not brook any reference to Jerusalem as part of the occupied territories, said Avner Tavori, a spokesman for the Israeli mission.

Israel's Yaacobi said Israel would agree to a resolution that contained the following elements:

It should condemn the Hebron massacre — but not Israel; call for an acceleration in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks; and refer to the provision in the peace accord for a temporary international presence that would be agreed on by Israel and the PLO.

Mr. Tavori emphasised, however, that such an international presence would be negotiated and agreed on by the two parties. "We are not talking about imposition by the Security Council," he said.

Question for Khasis What do men want?

By Syed Zubair Ahmad

SHILLONG, India — The matrilineal Khasi society in northeastern India, one of the few surviving female bastions in the world, is making a fervent effort to keep men in their place.

Through an all-male organisation that is battling the centuries-old matrilineal system has yet to make any significant dent, the rebels claim to have enlisted the support of some prominent Khasi women.

Their struggle to break free, they say, has resulted in small victories; some have begun to have a say in family affairs and are even inheriting property. But they constitute an insignificant minority in the 800,000-member Khasi society.

The men say the Khasi women are overbearing and dominating.

"We are sick of playing the roles of breeding bulls and baby sitters," complains A. Swer, who heads the organisation of maverick males.

Another member laments: "We have no lines of succession. We have no land, no business. Our generation ends with us."

The demand for restructuring Khasi society in the patriarchal mold is a fallout from the growing number of women who are marrying outsiders.

Following custom, the youngest daughter inherits the property and after marriage her husband moves into the family house. Outsiders are said to marry Khasi women for their property,

while the women say they prefer to marry outsiders because their own tribesmen tend to be irresponsible in family matters.

In rebuttal, many Khasi men say the outsiders take advantage of the immaturity, youth and vulnerability of the youngest daughters and devour all their property and business. As a result, many Khasi men become paupers.

Another problem caused by these marriages is the disintegration of families. About 27,000 Khasi women were divorced by their non-Khasi husbands in recent years, the highest number among India's northeastern tribes. The Khasi Student Union has issued a stern warning to young Khasi women against marrying "nontribals," saying they may be ostracised if they do. It is against switching over to the patrilineal system, however.

So is a prominent Khasi scholar, H. W. Sten, who cautions that a patrilineal shift "would result in cross-marriages between clans, which is taboo in Khasi society," and adds, "Ultimately, it would lead to genetic defects in the offspring."

He points out that a Khasi son of daughter takes the surname of the mother. Therefore, if two sisters marry two men of different clans, in a patriarchal system the surnames of their children would be different and marriages between cousins would be valid. "This goes against the basic principle of Khasi custom," he said.

At the same time, Mr. Sten

condemns those who are opposed to Khasi women's marrying outside the tribe.

"Khasi culture is very flexible," he said. "No problem if a nontribal wants to marry a Khasi girl as long as he is prepared to live with her and follow the Khasi custom. It will only add to the variety in Khasi society."

But Mr. Swer says such liberalism is the root cause of bastardisation of his tribe.

"Today, we have over 2,000 clans, but very few of them are pure Khasis," he observed. His demand for change, he adds, would stop outsiders from chasing Khasi young women, since under the patrilineal system their wives could not inherit property. But what about men marrying outside their tribe?

"The girls will be taken into the Khasi fold," he replied. "The children from the wedlock will automatically be Khasis."

While some men would like to end female domination, they do not support Mr. Swer's movement to abandon the deeply held tradition.

"We Khasis underestimate the contributions of our fathers to the family," said H. T. Wells, a cousin of Mr. Sten. "Our fathers do a lot, but the credit goes to the mothers. I would love to have the patriarchal system but for the respect of our custom."

Mr. Swer admits that the men's demand for a patrilineal society is still a distant hope. But people like Mr. Wells, half converts to his idea, sustain his dream.

The writer is a reporter for The Times of India.

By Jonathan Wright

CAIRO — The man in charge of Egypt's family planning programme since 1985 waited years before he had the confidence to tell the world he might be winning.

Now, with the birth rate slipping year after year, Population and Family Affairs Minister Maher Mahran is prepared to start speaking of the programme's gains.

"When we started achieving success, I couldn't declare it," he said. "Going into the 10th year, with a continuous drop in the birth rate, I don't think this is a random phenomenon at all."

He added in an interview with Reuters: "I don't like to say very successful. I can only say it has been successful beyond what I expected."

In 1985 the population of Egypt, a country hemmed in by the desert and wholly dependent on a narrow strip of irrigated land along the Nile, was growing at three per cent a year.

Every year it had more than a million extra mouths to feed but new housing was simultaneously eroding the amount of precious land available for farming. The government repeatedly said the equation was dragging Egypt towards a disaster.

The population now stands at about 58 million but the effects of social change, rapid urbanisation and an increase in literacy, coupled with family planning publicity, have taken even Mr. Mahran by surprise.

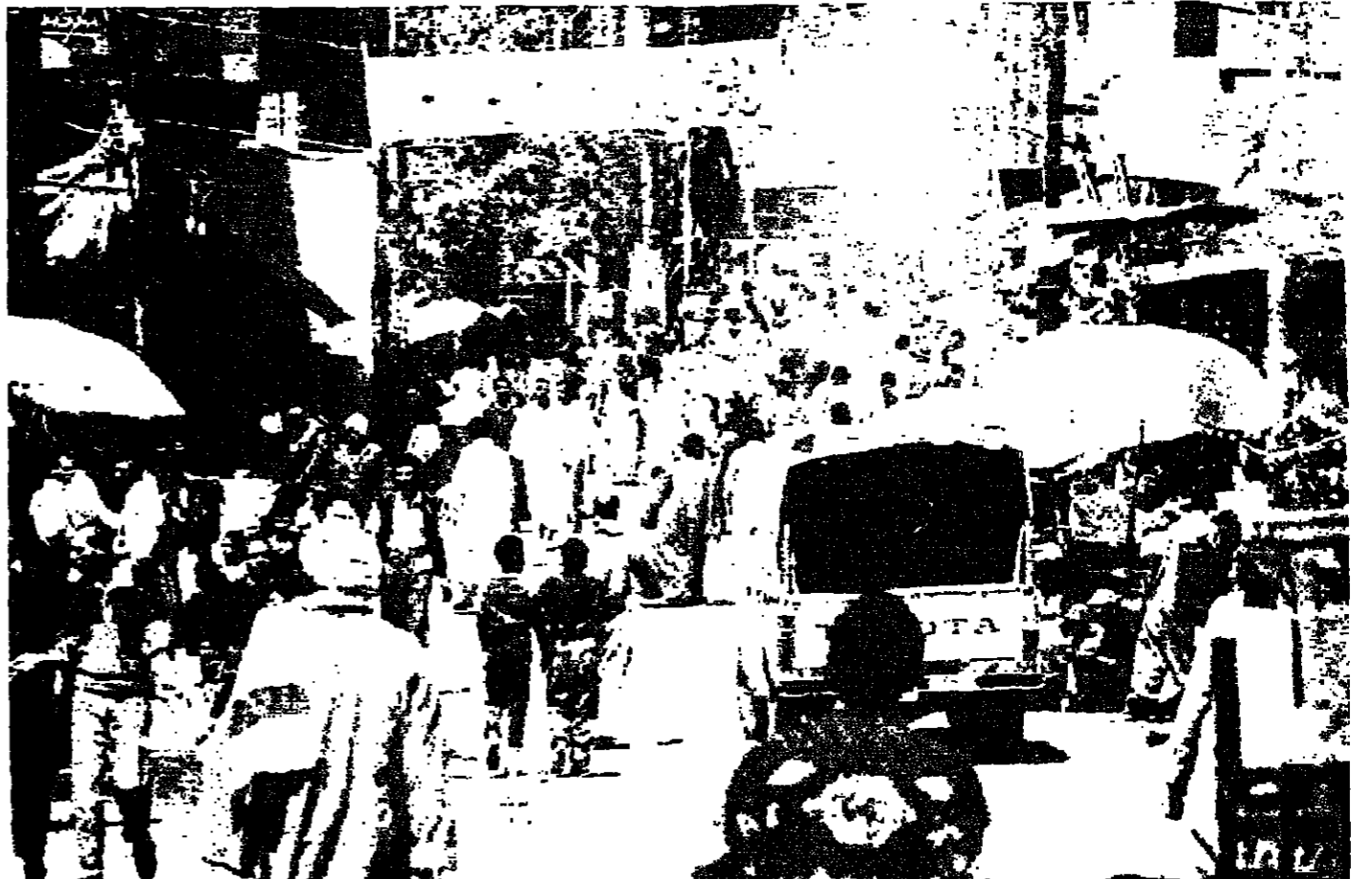
"When I took over responsibility in 1985 (as head of the National Population Council), I never thought the growth rate in the first half of 1993 would drop to 1.9 per cent," he said.

"In Cairo it's 1.6 per cent but it's diluted by higher rates in Upper Egypt," he added. Mr. Mahran said the change in attitudes towards having children was particularly striking across the generations.

"Look at me. I was one of four but my grandfather had 14 children, and I myself have only two. If you ask the students at university how many children they want, you will rarely hear them say more than two," he said.

"Television has played a very good role. Now people live in the world. They see what other people are doing, they see Europe. These kids have ambitions, they want to be better and they want to learn."

Mr. Mahran, a British-trained obstetrician and gynaecologist, said the decline in birth rates went hand in



Egypt, which in the early 80, had a million new mouths to feed every year, has now cut the population growth rate from three per cent in 1985 to 1.6 per cent. But it is in rural areas that the rate is still high (AFP photo)

Egypt triumphs over population challenge

hand with improvements in all the other measures of public health.

Eight years ago, one in 10 children died before reaching the age of five. In 1992, the rate was 45 in 1,000.

Life expectancy has increased to 63 for men and 66 for women. From an average of 45 in 1960.

"I remember when I was a child. If you found somebody of 60, you said goodbye. He was an old man," Mr. Mahran said.

Literacy rates, seen as an important element in the success of any family planning programme, have also risen dramatically.

In less than a decade the proportion of people who can read and write has gone from 28 to 64 per cent for men and 52 to 52 per cent for women.

he said. Mr. Mahran's long-term aim is to stabilise the population with an average of two children to a family, by raising the

cent of the people will be not yet married. So the population will continue to grow for another 30 to 40 years. The population would then be 100

but for that you would have to kill illiteracy, unemployment and poverty — and this is not an easy job," he said.

His ministry estimates the government is spending about 300 million pounds a year on family planning, on top of 20 million from foreign donors.

With that it makes contraceptives available in every village clinic, either as IUDs at less than 10 cents or pills at about 20 U.S. cents for a month's supply.

But with the one problem gradually diminishing, Mr. Mahran's newly created ministry expects another one to arise.

"We are not accustomed to people living so long. I think that in five or six years we have to make care for the ageing one of the components in our planning," he said.

"Television has played a very good role. Now people live in the world. They see what other people are doing... These kids have ambitions, they want to be better and they want to learn." Population and Family Affairs Minister Maher Mahran.

contraceptive use from 50 per cent to 70 per cent.

"This might be achieved in Egypt in the year 2010 or 2015 but even then about 40 per

million.

"But if you don't work hard for that, you will have more. And if you work very hard, you might achieve this earlier —

Detainee release fails to impress

(Continued from page 1)

pied territories have been cut off from jobs in Israel by the curfew.

Former Palestinian spokesman Hanan Ashrawi dismissed the release of prisoners as window-dressing when more than 10,000 Palestinians are in Israeli jails.

"We are not looking for appearance we are looking for serious substance," she said.

None of those released killed or wounded Israelis, none belonged to groups opposed to peace such as Hamas and none

had committed crimes since the Sept. 13 autonomy deal.

"These releases are just a drop in the ocean without any political significance," said 27-year-old Nasser Azza who was bussed back home to Ramallah on the occupied West Bank just 11 days before he completed a 21-month sentence.

"I'm not as happy as saddened and angered by the massacre in Hebron. Releasing 1,000 prisoners is not enough," said Ehsan Owda, 25, who returned home to Bethlehem six months before the end of five years inside.

The carnage at the Tomb of the Patriarchs on Friday sparked widespread protests which have left another 17 Palestinians dead and hundreds wounded and Palestinian leaders ordered no celebration for the releases.

It has led the PLO to snub U.S. President Bill Clinton's call for snap talks to turn tragedy into a peace catalyst.

Sufian Abu Zeid, a senior Gaza Strip official with Mr. Arafat's Fateh movement, said: "It's too small a number. There are at least 4,000 prisoners in jail on ridiculous charges."

"Israel could free them immediately to calm the Palestinian population."

According to international human rights groups Israel detains about 500 Palestinians a week during normal times.

Compensation offered

Israel will pay compensation to families of Palestinians killed in the Hebron massacre, the government announced.

It is rare for Israel to compensate Palestinians for death, injury or material damage unless they launch and win court cases.

Israel's announcement came a day after Saudi Arabia said it will pay 200,000 riyals (\$53,000) to each Palestinian family that lost a loved one in the massacre, and King Hussein said he was contributing

\$150,000 for the victims families.

In a separate gesture of conciliation, Israel's chief rabbi paid a condolence call, under heavy police guard, to a Muslim leader in Jerusalem.

Labour and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir said the one-time compensation—payment was a "humanitarian gesture." Israeli officials did not say how much total compensation for the families of the dead and wounded would be.

Government officials said Palestinians could apply to the Israeli civil administration in the West Bank for a 5,000-shekel advance payment pending full compensation.

It was a rare meeting for chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau and Sheikh Hassan Tabboub, head of the High Islamic Council, at the headquarters of the Waqf in Jerusalem.

"The sheikh expressed thanks over the fact of the visit and said he too wants peace," Rabbi Lau told reporters afterwards.

The Muslim leader demanded the removal of a synagogue in the Tomb of the Patriarchs, the 2,000-year-old Hebron shrine sacred to Jews and Muslims where Friday massacre took place.

Sheikh Tabboub said he told Rabbi Lau the Higher Islamic Council had warned the Israeli government about problems at the Hebron tomb. He said the name of Dr. Baruch Goldstein, who carried out the attack, had been mentioned specifically because he had harassed mosque guards and worshippers.

"I made it clear to him that the massacre could have been prevented had the government heeded our warning," Sheikh Tabboub, a native of Hebron, told Israel radio.

The meeting ended without a planned joint statement.

Officials said the Muslims wanted to wait until a seven-day mourning period ends before issuing a joint statement, and Rabbi Lau agreed.

Algerian hijackers denied asylum

ALICANTE, Spain (R) — Three Algerian policemen who hijacked an airliner to Spain will be denied political asylum there, local officials say.

Handcuffed and flanked by police officers, the three hijackers were led out of Alicante airport in southeast Spain after surrendering to authorities on Monday following some five hours of negotiations.

The Air Algérie Boeing 727 they commandeered on an internal flight with around 120 passengers and seven crew on board meanwhile took off for home.

Alicante Governor Alfonso Chave told a news conference the three men, aged between 28 and 32, would face normal legal procedures for their actions.

Because of international agreements there was no question of them being given political asylum in Spain, he said.

The hijackers, each armed with a pistol, ordered the plane to make an unauthorised landing in Alicante, on the Mediterranean coast of south-eastern Spain," Mr. Chave said.

The civil governor, who did much of the negotiations with the hijackers, told the news conference: "These were three officials who said they belonged to the Algerian police. They said they wanted to leave their country and that was why they did this."

Witnesses said the three men, two dressed in suits, were laughing as they got into the police van after surrendering.

The passengers, all Algerians, were released unhurt and Mr. Chave said the hijackers had throughout the negotiations, conducted with the plane's captain as intermediary, made clear they intended no violence.

"They said they were concerned not to commit any violence against the passengers but rather to ensure their safety," he said.

Moscow unveils 'spy'

(Continued from page 1)

tion with the case. In retaliation, Russia on Monday ordered an American diplomat to leave the country within a week. They were the first such expulsions since the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991.

U.S. court papers said Mr. Ames and his wife were paid more than \$2.5 million for the secrets they passed on to Russia and the Soviet Union starting in 1985.

Mr. Ames, 52, and his wife, Rosario, 41, arrested Feb. 21 after a two-year investigation, faced a federal court hearing Tuesday in which their lawyers were expected to ask for their release on bond.

Initial reports had put the Ames' payoff at \$1.5 million. But in court papers filed Monday, federal prosecutors said new evidence suggested that they received "well over \$2.5 million."

"This money has been stashed in foreign bank accounts throughout the world, many beyond the reach of the government in this case," the court papers said.

Authorities have seized the Ames' \$540,000 house and frozen assets in 13 bank accounts.

Israel to disarm less than 100 settlers

(Continued from page 1)

voiced no opinion.

The survey by the International Centre for Peace in the Middle East found 57 per cent supporting Mr. Rabin's peace policy. But 36 per cent were opposed. More than seven per cent gave no opinion.

Only 14 per cent thought the government should agree to dismantle the settlements to get peace negotiations back on track. Nearly 78 per cent were opposed and the rest without opinion.

They noted that some army commanders have previously received death threats from Jewish extremists, the Jeru-

salem Post reported.

Meanwhile, the police said it would not detain or disarm individuals in the territories until the army decides whom it thinks needs to be arrested.

It is "ridiculous" to take the automatic weapons away from some 20 potential instigators, one army source said. "There are plenty of weapons scattered around the territories. If an individual needs an automatic weapon, he can get one; they are readily available."

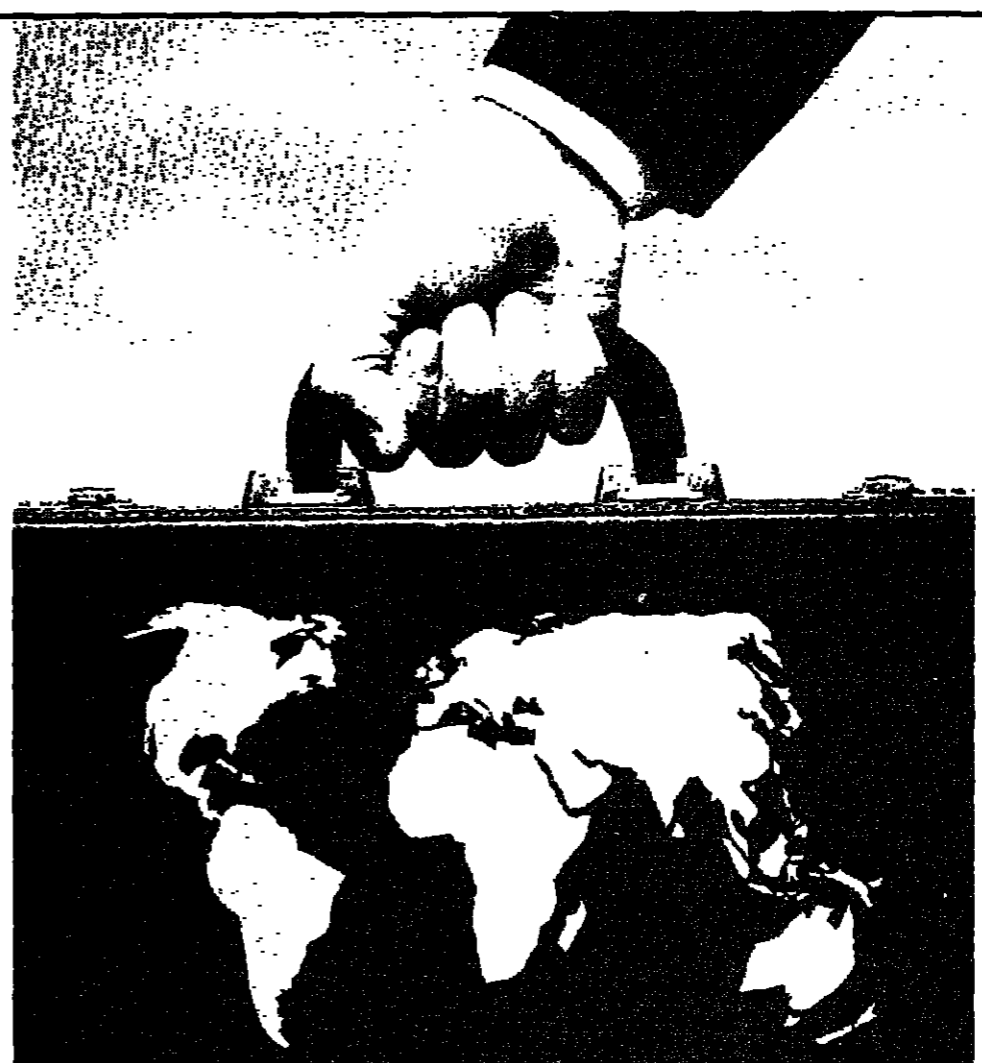
Cracking down on these people requires extensive intelligence, in addition to what is now known about groups and individuals. It is a political decision, not ours to make or

recommend."

In a related development, the army medical corps, in which Goldstein had served since 1984, said that throughout his service there was never a reason to doubt his sanity or lower his profile for psychological reasons.

But Channel 1's Mabab news reported last night that as early as 1984, soldiers complained that while serving in Lebanon, Goldstein refused to treat an Arab.

Druze soldiers serving with Goldstein's artillery unit complained to their officers that they feared he would refuse to treat them. Goldstein was later transferred from the unit.



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U.N. agencies and Arab organisation sign accord on industrial development

U.S. Dollar in International Currencies	
Swiss Franc	1.48
French Franc	6.55
Japanese Yen	360
European Currencies	166.63
1936 Pts.	200
European Options	100
European Currencies	
U.S. Dollar	1.00
Swiss Franc	0.68
French Franc	0.16
Japanese Yen	0.0028
European Currencies	0.0060
1936 Pts.	0.0075
European Options	0.0038
Precious Metals	
Gold	1335.00
Silver	22.50
Platinum	1000.00
Central Bank of Japan	
U.S. Dollar	1.00
Swiss Franc	0.68
French Franc	0.16
Japanese Yen	0.0028
European Currencies	0.0060
1936 Pts.	0.0075
European Options	0.0038
Other Currencies	
U.S. Dollar	1.00
Swiss Franc	0.68
French Franc	0.16
Japanese Yen	0.0028
European Currencies	0.0060
1936 Pts.	0.0075
European Options	0.0038
LONDON	
U.S. Dollar	1.00
Swiss Franc	0.68
French Franc	0.16
Japanese Yen	0.0028
European Currencies	0.0060
1936 Pts.	0.0075
European Options	0.0038

Brazil launches new economic plan, will introduce new currency

BRASILIA (AFP) — Brazil has unveiled an economic stabilization plan that will introduce a new currency, called the real, and give a five per cent pay hike to government workers, including army staff.

Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso said he had overcome some opposition to the plan in the labour and federal administration departments, where some officials were concerned about the effect of planned wage indexing.

Mr. Cardoso fanned the 40-article plan in the federal government's Daily Bulletin for reporters and said that in addition to the new currency, the plan would implement market intervention measures designed to fight excessive price hikes, including a so-called real value unit (URV) for indexing.

The URV, a monetary unit that will not circulate in print, was set at 647.50 cruzeiros reals — a level almost pegged with the dollar, which was trading at 627.68 cruzeiros reals Tuesday.

The new currency, the real, is to be in circulation in a maximum of 360 days, Mr. Cardoso said.

But experts said the time frame was on the generous side, and that the new bills would likely be on the streets in three to four months.

Mr. Cardoso also announced that the monthly minimum wage, as of Monday, was set at \$8.732 cruzeiros reals, or about \$65.

The text of the plan says the government should resort to using the URV for price indexing only in cases of price-gauging by major holding companies which control about 50 per cent of Brazil's economy, currently the world's 10th largest.

The finance minister presented the final plan to President Itamar Franco for the first time on Saturday and got the administration's legal green light.

Sunday, he pressed through nine hours of private negotiations at the Planalto presidential palace with opponents of the plan from the labour and administration departments as well as the military. Mr. Franco chaired the meeting and Mr. Cardoso was able to forge a consensus without making concessions that would jeopardize the plan.

But with feet to the fire, Mr. Cardoso did agree to back a five per cent wage hike for all government employees including military personnel, as well as to create a commission that would look into the possibility of eventually raising the minimum wage.

On the campaign trail, the frontrunner in the presidential race, with Oct. 3 elections looming, swiftly announced his opposition to Mr. Cardoso's plan.

"Keeping prices unregulated while indexing wages is inexplicable," Luis Ignacio "Lula" da Silva, a former metal workers union leader with the Workers' Party, said in Curitiba. He said workers would be seriously hurt by the plan.

Metal workers unions in Sao Paulo, Guarulhos and Osasco meanwhile announced they were going on strike March 2 to protest the new stabilization plan.

"Our problem is February's inflation (estimated at 40 per cent by research institutes) which will not be taken into account in the wage-fixing," said Paulo Pereira da Silva, the number two man at the Sao Paulo branch of the union.

U.S. economic growth near 10-year peak

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. economy expanded at the strongest pace in nearly a decade during the final three months of 1993, the Commerce Department said Tuesday.

In its first revision of fourth-quarter gross domestic product, the department said output surged at a sizzling 7.5 per cent annual rate instead of the 5.9 per cent rate estimated a month ago. That was the strongest growth since the first quarter of 1984, when the economy expanded at a 7.9 per cent rate.

Despite the big upward revision in growth, which was well above economists' expectations of a 6.9 per cent rate of expansion, the department's original measures showing moderate inflation were virtually unchanged.

More than half of the additional boost to fourth-quarter GDP came from a lower trade deficit than first thought because exports were stronger and imports lower than estimated a month ago. In addition, consumer spending was

brisker than originally thought.

GDP measures the value of all goods and services produced by workers and capital within U.S. borders.

The department said GDP expanded by about \$20 billion more in last year's closing quarter than it first estimated. About \$11.5 billion of that gain was accounted for by a smaller trade gap. Another \$4.5 billion came from even stronger consumer spending than thought originally.

As a result of the stronger fourth-quarter growth estimate, the department said the economy grew by three per cent over the entire year of 1993 instead of 2.9 per cent. That was the best annual growth rate in five years, since 3.9 per cent in 1988.

Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan told Congress a week ago that while bad weather in January and February likely will slow consumer spending, early in 1994, "as best we can judge, the economy's forward momentum remains intact."

Partly because of the impact of weather, most economists anticipate GDP growth will slow to a rate of about three per cent to 3.5 per cent in the first quarter.

The Fed, as the Federal Reserve or U.S. central bank is known, already pushed short-term interest rates up a notch early in February to try to dampen any budding price pressures. On Monday, Fed Governor Lawrence Lindsey said he hoped that would be enough to keep inflation at bay, but said there will be more interest-rate rises if needed.

Inflation was restrained in the fourth quarter, with the implicit price deflator rising only at a 1.3 per cent rate — the lowest since one per cent in the third quarter of 1992 and the same as estimated a month ago.

The GDP fixed-weight index of price changes rose by 2.3 per cent, fractionally more than the 2.2 per cent rate of increase the department originally estimated.

Pro-reform Indian budget cheers foreign investors

BOMBAY (AFP) — Foreign investors here gave the thumbs-up Tuesday to the fiscal 1994-95 budget unveiled by Finance Minister Manmohan Singh and said it kept India solidly on the path of economic reform.

Navinder Sahni of brokerage Marlin Partners U.K. said the budget released Monday had sent positive signals to foreign institutional investors and foreign firms seeking to take advantage of the opening of the Indian economy.

"We would advise investors to stay on course," he said. "The budget is growth-friendly. Input costs for most firms will go down. We are heading towards a lower cost India."

The initial reaction of the Bombay Stock Exchange, the nation's largest, was negative, however, as the barometer sensitive index lost 136 points during the first full day of post-budget trading to close at 4150.15 points.

Broker Ajit Ambani said much of the selling was by local profit-takers and the bulls would return to the market.

"The ill-informed are selling in panic while others are waiting cautiously to get a clearer idea of the budget," he said.

Pankaj Talwar of W.I. Carr

(Far East) said the budget for the fiscal year beginning April 1 was foreign investor friendly although "obviously all expectations have not been met," adding "there were too many expectations."

Mr. Talwar said cuts in import duties and domestic tariffs would help industry substantially.

Turning to the stock market, he said automobiles, consumer goods, paints and toiletries looked like attractive buys.

"But I am very bullish on shares of computer hardware and software firms. The duty cuts here are significant," he said.

Sri Shankar of Hoare Govett Asia said foreign institutional investors were disappointed that the 10 per cent capital gains tax on portfolio investments was retained.

"We were expecting it to be brought down to zero as in countries like South Korea and Malaysia," he said.

But, he added, "there has been no slackening" of the economic reforms begun in June 1991 by the government of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao.

"The good thing is (Finance Minister Singh) is going about

making domestic industry competitive. With a good monsoon and excellent industrial growth things should look up. The budget is particularly good to industry," Mr. Shankar said.

Pravin Shah of Smith Newcourt said he did not expect any change in investment patterns on the Indian stock exchanges.

"Substantial money has already been earmarked for investment here. This trend will continue as the budget is broadly pro-reform," he said.

More than 130 foreign institutional investors, mostly pension and mutual funds, have been licensed to invest on Indian stock exchanges since September 1992, when New Delhi opened up the bourses as part of its liberalisation.

Foreign institutional investors brought in some \$1 billion to the Indian bourses in 1993, well in excess of expectations. The amount is expected to double in 1994.

Foreign investment projects worth nearly \$3 billion were approved by the Indian government last year with U.S. firms pledging more money in 1993 alone than in the 45 years since India's independence from Britain.

German labour unrest grows

FRANKFURT (R) — German public sector workers stepped up a nationwide protest campaign of disruption on Tuesday and separately the I.G. Metall engineering union said it was confident of securing backing for a full strike next week.

In both sectors, workers have been angered by management calls for a wage freeze and benefit cuts against a backdrop of recession.

The public employee protests on a vast scale hit transport systems, hospitals, kindergartens and waste collection in major cities across both eastern and western Germany.

In Berlin alone, 100,000 workers walked off the job. Train and bus drivers left their vehicles standing for two hours at the height of the morning rush hour.

In the east German town of Magdeburg, traffic came to a standstill as about 150 refuse collectors drove a convoy of 50 garbage trucks through the streets.

Germany's most populous state of North Rhine-Westphalia, the home of the Bonn government, was targeted for the second day running.

Around 26,000 workers took part in action there.

Walkouts by public workers come hot on the heels of huge-scale protests in the engineering sector, where the recent industrial action seems set to escalate into a full strike.

Pakistani central bank lowers interest rate

KARACHI (AFP) — Pakistan's central bank reduced commercial bank interest rates from 22 to 19 per cent Tuesday to increase the flow of credit to the private sector.

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) also lowered its lending rate to commercial banks from 17 to 15 per cent and cut the liquidity ratio by five per cent, from 35 per cent of reserves to 30 per cent.

SBP Governor Mohammad Yaqub, announcing the decisions at a news conference, said that the measures were designed to reduce the cost of borrowing and to enhance credit flow to the private sector.

His announcement gave an immediate boost to Pakistan's premier Karachi Stock Exchange (KSE). The KSE 100-index surged by 44 points at 2501.73, dealers said, forecasting a further rise as the rate cut would reduce the cost of production of many loss-making companies listed on the stock exchange.

Mr. Yaqub described the measures as "fruits" of autonomy given to the central bank by the government through a bill enacted by the parliament last month.

The act gives SBP independence in regulating and supervising the national monetary and credit system.

The SBP has also tried to reduce the spread between

maximum and minimum lending rates by raising minimum lending from 11 to 12 per cent, the governor said.

Mr. Yaqub, a former International Monetary Fund executive, said the decisions "have the approval" of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. He said the present government's "determined efforts" to contain expenditures "have helped reduce government borrowing from banks."

This, coupled with tight monetary policy, reduced domestic bank credit growth to five per cent during the July 1993 to Feb. 10, 1994 period, compared to 19 per cent during the corresponding period of the previous fiscal year, he said.

The money supply growth has been restricted to 9.6 per cent compared with 16.4 per cent last year, Mr. Yaqub said.

Meanwhile, Pakistan is to offer a series of incentives to attract private foreign and domestic investment in power generation in a bid to stave off the current crippling energy shortages.

The government hopes to raise some 102 billion rupees (\$3.40 billion), the bulk of it in foreign currency, from private investors for various projects over the next five years, with the public sector contributing an additional 217.7 billion rupees over the same period.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 12/29/93	Tokyo Close 1/3/94
Sterling Pound	1.4855	1.4855
Deutsche Mark	1.7042	1.7058
Swiss Franc	1.4259	1.4300
French Franc	5.7905	5.7952**
Japanese Yen	104.59	104.92
European Currency Unit	1.1340	1.1334**

USD Per STG
European Opening to 8:00 a.m. GMT

Interbank bid rates for minimums exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.2500	3.4375	3.5625	4.0000
Sterling Pound	4.9375	4.9375	4.9375	5.0000
Deutsche Mark	5.8750	5.8750	5.5000	5.2500
Swiss Franc	4.0000	5.8750	3.8125	3.6875
French Franc	6.1250	6.0625	5.8750	5.6875
Japanese Yen	2.1875	2.1250	2.1250	2.1250
European Currency Unit	6.3700	6.1800	6.0600	5.8700

Interbank bid rates for minimums exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Commodity	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	380.85	7.50	Silver	5.34	0.120

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6980	0.7000
Sterling Pound	1.0354	1.0406
Deutsche Mark	0.4088	0.4108
Swiss Franc	0.4873	0.4897
French Franc	0.1202	0.1208
Japanese Yen	0.6636	0.6669
Dutch Guilder	0.3640	0.3658
Swedish Krona	0.0413	0.0415
Italian Lira	0.0000	0.0000
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8320	1.8480
Lebanese Lira	0.040365	0.041745
Saudi Riyal	0.1858	0.1867
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.5580	2.5600
Qatari Riyal	0.1895	0.1905
Egyptian Pound	0.2050	0.2200
Omani Riyal	1.7900	1.8060
UAE Dirham	0.1895	0.1905
Greek Drachma	0.2735	0.3155
Cypriot Pound	1.3225	1.3870

Per 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3485/95	1.7003/13	1.9097/07	1.4295/05	35.01/05	5.7820/70	1684.1/5.6	104.35/45	7.9900/00	7.4090/20	6.6725/75	\$1.4875/85	\$380.80/381.30
Canadian dollar													
Deutsche marks													
Dutch guilders													
Swiss francs													
Belgian francs													
French francs													
Italian lire													
Japanese yen													
Swedish crowns													
Norwegian crowns													
Danish crowns													

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Clinton, Major discuss Russia, N. Ireland

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton and British Prime Minister John Major met Monday and discussed Russia and Northern Ireland at length.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Major, aiming to patch up strained relations, met at a Pittsburgh air base and said they both supported the downing by NATO planes of four Bosnian Serb warplanes violating the no-fly zone over Bosnia-Herzegovina earlier Monday.

"We're agreed on Bosnia that firm action is right and we'll be looking to see how we can increase the pressure for the peace that every sensible person wishes to see," Mr. Major said.

It was also a nostalgia trip for Mr. Major, Mr. Clinton arranged to meet in Pittsburgh because Mr. Major's grandfather once lived there, building blast furnaces. The onetime industrial city was also where Mr. Major's father spent much of his childhood.

The two said they held the same positions on Russia. "We'll be looking to see what we can do to try and play our part in ensuring that Russia is able to carry its reform programme forward," Mr. Major said.

Mr. Clinton was to spend the night at the White House, ending the first British presidential visit to the U.S. since 1979. The president's residence since Winston Churchill.

Relations have been strained since Boris Yeltsin came to power in Russia in recent days. With Britain suggesting last week that it agreed only reluctantly, and after arm-twisting from Washington, to the threat of NATO airstrikes on Sarajevo to force an end to shelling of the besieged city.

Britain has also complained about Washington's refusal to put troops on the ground in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The two leaders have been at odds since the presidential campaign, when Mr. Major's Conservative Party helped Mr. Clinton's opponent, then-President George Bush.

Mr. Clinton recently angered Britain by allowing Gerry Adams, the leader of the Irish Republican Army's legal political wing, to enter the United States on a 24-hour visa after a 30-year ban.

But earlier in the day, when asked by CNN Television about reported strains in U.S.-British relations, Mr. Major said he did not see his visit as one of reconciliation, saying "the talks of breach and difference are wildly overdone."

"We have a whole range of things to discuss: Bosnia, Russia, and that's what I'm here for," Mr. Major added.

Mr. Major said of the Adams visit that it was "gone. That behind us. What we need to determine is how we make further progress in Northern Ireland and that is what we're seeking to do."

Mr. Clinton said he wanted "to emphasise to all of you here in the heartland of America how important the relationship between the United States and Great Britain is."

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Major also sent a joint message to African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela and Zulu leader Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthe, who were set to meet Tuesday ahead of April's first non-racial elections in South Africa.

Mr. Major read the statement here referring to the "crucial meeting that may have great importance as the South Africans move toward their first multiracial elections."

Mr. Major won U.S. support Monday in London's row with Beijing over democratic reforms in Hong Kong, British officials said.

China reacted furiously last week to the approval by Hong Kong's legislature of the first stage of the reforms. It said Britain had slammed the door shut on any chance of resuming talks on how the colony should be ruled once Britain has handed it over to China in 1997.

Mr. Major, on a two-day U.S. visit, told Vice President Al Gore it would help if the United States kept making plain its support for more democracy in the colony, officials said.

Mr. Gore, who said he was a great admirer of British Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten, said Washington would do just that, they added.

Mandela and Buthelezi discuss unrest, elections

DURBAN, South Africa (Agencies) — South Africa's main black political rivals met Tuesday to seek ways to end violence and bring black federalists into the country's first all-race elections.

Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, head of the Inkatha Freedom Party, maintained a tough line on arrival at a central Durban hotel for his first meeting in nine months with African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Mandela.

"I don't expect concessions from Mr. Mandela and he shouldn't expect concessions from me," said Mr. Buthelezi, who is seeking virtual autonomy for Zulus in post-apartheid South Africa.

But he added: "I wouldn't be here if I did not hope to make progress...it is quite clear that we cannot have a democratic elections with the levels of violence we have in this country."

He refused to comment when asked about Inkatha's participation in the April 26-28 elections.

Mr. Mandela said on the eve of the talks he would do everything in his power to persuade Mr. Buthelezi to take part in the elections but stressed that

there was no question of postponing them.

He told reporters in Johannesburg Monday that while he was optimistic about the meeting, there were two issues on which there could be no concessions:

"That is postponement of the date of elections and...we cannot compromise to any demands which in fact amount virtually to secession."

Mr. Buthelezi said Monday he would talk peace with Mr. Mandela but the ANC leader would be wasting his time in trying to convince him to enter the elections.

"There is no question of me being persuaded by him or anyone to ensure the IFP's participation in the elections," Mr. Buthelezi said in the memorandum presented to National Peace Accord Chairman Antonie Gildenhuys in the KwaZulu capital Ulundi.

ANC Natal spokesman Mpho Scott said the main aim was to persuade Mr. Buthelezi to drop his boycott of the April poll which will end more than three centuries of white domination.

Mr. Scott said political violence would feature high on the agenda, as would a demand by Mr. Buthelezi's nephew,

Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini, for a sovereign Zulu kingdom in the new South Africa.

Clashes between supporters of the ANC and Inkatha have intensified in Natal province and townships west of Johannesburg. More than 14,000 people have died in political violence over the past four years of apartheid reform, mostly between supporters of the two black groups.

The meeting is the first in nine months between the rival black leaders and their fourth since Mr. Mandela was released from 17 years imprisonment four years ago.

Mr. Buthelezi reported Monday little progress in weekend talks between himself, the Zulu king and the South African government on the same issues.

Inkatha and its white right-wing allies in the conservative Freedom Alliance have warned of civil war and threatened to boycott the vote if their demands are not met for virtual regional autonomy in a future South Africa.

South Africa's white-dominated parliament was midway through a three-day sitting to debate changes to the draft constitution which the government and ANC say



African National Congress President Nelson Mandela (right) Tuesday shakes hands with Zulu Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi prior to their meeting in Durban, South Africa (AFP photo)

meet the alliance's demands.

But Conservative Party leader Feroz Hertzberg, a leader of the Freedom Alliance, told parliament the concessions to be enacted were not enough and demanded the elections be postponed.

His comments were echoed by Inkatha's Central Committee, which said Monday night the party was committed to an all-inclusive settlement addressing all its demands.

South Africa's multi-party Transitional Executive Council (TEC) resolved at its weekly meeting here Tuesday to act

against mounting violence in Natal province, but failed to spell out specific measures.

Instead, the body that oversees government in the run-up to the April 26-28 poll said only that it had resolved to "take all steps necessary to ensure that elections are held on a free and fair basis."

The resolution was approved after African National Congress (ANC) Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa told the TEC that Natal was undergoing an "unprecedented outbreak of politically motivated violence."

Mr. Ramaphosa, who is also the ANC chief negotiator, said "certain parties" were giving military training to groups of 500 to 1,000 people every two weeks.

He was referring to the IFP which has its stronghold in Natal, and to white ultrarightist groups, some members of which have acknowledged training IFP militants.

Mr. Ramaphosa said the military training and an influx of weapons to the troubled region were part of preparations to disrupt the elections.

Fumes that felled hospital staff tied to pesticide

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (R) — A patient whose body gave off fumes that made emergency room doctors and nurses dizzy had apparently swallowed household pesticide, a hospital spokesman said Monday.

In a scene reminiscent of baffling case a week earlier in Riverside, California, paramedics brought a 44-year-old woman to Mercy Hospital Saturday with breathing problems and a low pulse rate, officials said. But when medical personnel inserted a breathing tube, they smelled strong fumes coming from the patient, and doctors and nurses complained of dizziness, headaches, nausea and burning eyes. The emergency room was evacuated and a hazardous materials team clad in protective gear was called in to decontaminate the area. The woman survived, and test results Monday showed the fumes had come from a common household pesticide she had apparently ingested, hospital spokesman Barry Ginsburg said. He declined to say whether doctors believed she had tried to commit suicide, insisting "we don't want to get into a game of speculation."

The case attracted widespread attention because of its similarities to that of Gloria Ramirez, 31, who died on Feb. 19 in the emergency room at Riverside General Hospital. Seven emergency room workers who treated her were overcome by fumes that apparently came from her body, and a doctor and a nurse remained hospitalized in serious condition Monday.

Some test results have shown that the workers felled by the fumes had apparently been exposed to a highly toxic pesticide ingredient. But the woman's relatives said she would never have attempted suicide, and experts continued to puzzle over the case.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Ingushetia poll 'marred by violations'

NAZRAN, Russia (R) — Preliminary poll results Monday showed that General Ruslan Aushev was headed for reelection as president of the volatile southern Russian Republic of Ingushetia. Opponents accused Mr. Aushev, whose army of uniformed police patrolled the polling stations, of securing victory in the North Caucasian republic by force and trickery. According to the official results released Monday evening, 94 per cent voted for Afghan war veteran Aushev and only four per cent for opposition candidate Bamagirei Mankiev. Almost 98 per cent also approved Aushev's proposed constitution, which gives the president sweeping powers. The presidential elections were announced only a week and a half ago — giving opposition candidates 10 days to campaign. Mr. Mankiev, the only other candidate, was refused direct air time in local broadcast media while newspapers ignored him altogether.

4 dead in Belgian apartment blast

BRUSSELS (R) — An explosion at an apartment block in northwestern Brussels killed four people and injured 14 early Tuesday, police said. "We have brought two bodies from the building and there are still two inside which we have not recovered yet," a police spokesman Colonel Bliet told Reuters. He said 14 people were injured, some seriously, by the blast, which caused the top four floors of the eight-story building to collapse. The spokesman said the cause of the explosion was not known. "We do not know if it is gas or something else," he said. There was no fire. He said 84 people had been evacuated from the building.

New Finnish president takes office

HELSINKI (R) — Martti Ahtisaari Tuesday took office as Finland's new president, succeeding Mauno Koivisto who stepped down after two six-year terms. Mr. Ahtisaari, 56, who stood for the opposition Social Democratic Party in last month's presidential election, assumed the presidency at a ceremony in parliament. The former United Nations undersecretary general formally became Finland's 10th president since independence in 1917 when he took the oath of office in a televised ceremony. Mr. Ahtisaari defeated Defence Minister Elisabeth Rehn of the small Swedish People's Party in a second and decisive round of voting on Feb. 6.

London cinema death toll reaches 9

LONDON (R) — The death toll in the weekend torching of a private London sex cinema rose to nine Tuesday when a 35-year-old man died of his burns, police said. Another 20 people were injured in Saturday night's fire, for which police have arrested a man on suspicion of arson. The Cinema Club in east London showed hard-core pornographic and gay films in a small 19th century building. Police believe petrol was scattered outside the entrance and set alight. Police have given few details about the casualties but some newspapers said most of the victims were middle-aged men and some of the dead were found wearing women's clothing.

U.S., Vietnam hold talks on human rights

HANOI (AFP) — Vietnam and the United States have begun talks in New York on human rights in an effort to overcome differences on what Washington has called a top consideration in establishing diplomatic relations. A report said here Tuesday Nancy Ely-Raphel, U.S. principal deputy assistant secretary for human rights and humanitarian issues, met Monday at the United Nations in New York with Vietnamese Ambassador Le Van Bang for talks on the issue, one of several still dividing the former adversaries, the Vietnam News Agency said. The meeting was held "in an atmosphere of construction and mutual understanding," the official news agency said in a brief dispatch that gave few details. U.S. officials have said that human rights will play an important role in moves to normalise relations with Vietnam, which has said it welcomes a dialogue on the issue but will not tolerate any "interference in its internal affairs." A recent State Department report said constitutional changes in 1992 had improved the legal framework for human rights in Vietnam but that government opponents were still imprisoned for the peaceful expression of their views.

23 Bangladeshis killed by Burmese

DHAKA (AFP) — Burmese border guards tortured 23 Bangladeshis woodcutters to death after kidnapping them from the Bangladesh side of the border last January, it was reported here Tuesday. The local commander of the Bangladesh Rifles, Major Shah Zakaria, was quoted by the mass circulation Ittefaq newspaper as saying, "we have learned from reliable sources that they were tortured to death." Burmese authorities ignored repeated requests for the return of the woodcutters, who were abducted in southeast Bangladesh near the Burmese border, the newspaper said. Maj. Zakaria, speaking in the frontier town of Bandarban, said the Burmese had remained silent when Bangladesh asked them to return the woodcutters at the only meeting the two sides had on the abductions. Five days ago 26 Bangladeshi fishermen were reported abducted by Burmese border guards off the coast of St. Martin's Island, in the Bay of Bengal. In both cases the Bangladeshis were within their country's border, security officials said.

Cambodian army flees captured base

PHNOM PENH (R) — Khmer Rouge guerrillas recaptured their northern headquarters of Angkor Veng from the Cambodian army after soldiers who had not been fed "ran away", a senior commander said Tuesday.

Jubilant army commanders had bragged that the base, 300 kilometres northwest of Phnom Penh, would be "held forever" after they moved into it on Feb. 5.

An estimated 1,000 Khmer Rouge under the command of the notorious one-legged guerrilla chief Ta Mok had fled into the nearby Dangrek Mountains.

But General Toan Chay, commander of the Fourth Military Region and governor of Siem Reap, said the Maoist guerrillas — the last group still holding out against peace in Cambodia — recaptured the base on Feb. 24.

"All the troops retreated about 10 kilometres from the base... they ran away because they had no food," he told Reuters.

He said government troops were planning to launch a counter-attack within five days.

On a government-organised trip to the base shortly after its capture, soldiers complained to a visiting Reuters correspondent of inadequate food and medicine.

"We've made a lot of effort to capture this base yet we have little food during the fighting. As you know the supply situation on the battlefield is not good," said one colonel.

Defence analysts have long warned of the inability of the resource-strapped government army to supply its far-flung troops.

Yann Fiat, of the centre-right Union for French Democracy (UDF), was shot Friday in her Riviera town of Hyeres near Toulon by a gunman on a motorcycle. Authorities have

N. Korea agrees to talks with South

SEOUL (R) — Communist North Korea agreed Tuesday to hold a meeting with South Korea at their cold war border, breaking a months-long deadlock over the North's suspected nuclear programme.

Park Yong-su, the North's chief delegate to inter-Korean talks, told the South his country would agree to talks Thursday at the border hamlet of Panmunjom about a proposed exchange of special envoys.

Mr. Park was responding to Monday's offer from the South suggesting a meeting Tuesday.

"The meeting will take place Thursday, I hope the working-level contact will smoothly work out arrangements for an exchange of special envoys so that it can take place at an early date," a spokesman for

the South-North Dialogue Office said.

The meeting, the first official contact in four months, will focus on a planned exchange of envoys charged with ending the row over inspection of the north's nuclear sites.

The two have held three rounds of border talks to discuss the envoy exchange. But the North broke off contacts last November after the South rejected its call to end annual military exercises with the United States.

Meanwhile, seven IAEA inspectors flew into North Korea from Beijing Tuesday, easing a tense year-long standoff over suspicions that the Stalinist regime was developing a bomb and toying with the idea of nuclear war.

Namibia wins control of Walvis Bay port

WALVIS BAY, Namibia (R) — Namibia won control of the port enclave of Walvis Bay from South Africa Tuesday in a ceremony that President Sam Nujoma said finally closed the book on colonialism in his country.

Residents of the black township of Kuisebmond danced and sang in the darkened streets after the midnight (2200 GMT Feb. 28) ceremony in the township soc-

cer stadium in which the South African flag was lowered for the last time.

As a cannon fired a 21-shot salute, the Namibian flag was raised and Namibian Olympic silver-medal sprinter Frankie Fredericks lit a "unity flame".

"This momentous occasion marks an emotional rendezvous with our history and destiny," Mr. Nujoma, who led the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO)

in a guerrilla war for independence from South Africa, said in a speech at the stadium.

"At long Walvis Bay has been returned to its rightful owners."

But Mr. Nujoma said "local spoilers... untrustworthy persons in Walvis Bay" had tried to cheat the Namibian government in negotiations on transferring South African state assets in the enclave to the Windhoek government.

French police question politicians, gangsters in parliamentarian's death

TOULON, France (R) — Police rounded up local politicians and small-time gangsters Tuesday in a swift investigation into the murder of a parliamentarian who crusaded against corruption and drug trafficking in southern France.

Yann Fiat, of the centre-right Union for French Democracy (UDF), was shot Friday in her Riviera town of Hyeres near Toulon by a gunman on a motorcycle. Authorities have

said she was probably murdered by hired killers.

Some 30 people were taken in for questioning in a dawn raid on Tuesday and 17 were later formally placed under arrest.

Authorities refused to name those held but police sources said they included both members of the local assembly in the coastal Var region and underworld figures close to Jean-Louis Fargette, a "god-

father" killed last March in San Remo, Italy.

Public prosecutor Andre Ride said some of those held were being questioned as suspects and others as witnesses.

He said investigators had enough information to issue composite portraits of the gunman and the accomplice who drove the motorcycle. But he denied radio reports that the hit-man had already been identified.

Yeltsin bows to amnesty, but issues stiff warning

MOSCOW (AFP) — President Boris Yeltsin bowed Tuesday to parliament's move to free the leaders of two coups that he thwarted in as many years, but warned he was in full control and would swiftly counter any future moves to destabilise Russia.

Mr. Yeltsin, stung by the amnesty that saw his most bitter opponents liberated to resume their campaign against him, met with the speakers of the two chambers of parliament and said lawmakers would be held accountable for their decision.

"At present I see no real danger for civil accord and I am in full control of the social and political situation," Mr. Yeltsin was quoted as saying in a statement released by the Kremlin after the talks.

The Russian leader stressed his view that acceptance of the amnesty by the leaders of the 1991 aborted Soviet coup and the October 1993 armed revolt amounted to their admission of

criminal guilt, although the accused have denied that interpretation.

The 1991 coup plotters were all released on personal recognisance last year while the October revolt leaders walked free from Moscow's high-security Lefortovo prison on Saturday.

"Should the slightest attempt be made against the situation in the country, they will be arrested immediately," Mr. Yeltsin warned.

His spokesman asserted that instructions to that effect had already been issued.

The military tribunal that had been hearing the trial of the accused plotters of the 1991 failed coup met briefly on Tuesday and announced that the proceedings were terminated in line with the amnesty. ITAR-TASS news agency reported.

The trial opened in April last year but was plagued by health problems of the 12 defendants.

bureaucratic incompetence and deliberate political manipulation that turned the on-again off-again proceedings into an unprecedented legal farce.

Mr. Yeltsin's statement following his talks with the parliamentary speakers was packed with warnings that his acceptance of the amnesty was highly conditional on better relations with the legislature and the future stability of the country.

It nonetheless boiled down to a dramatic climb-down and a recognition of the Kremlin's failure to block the amnesty, despite claims by former Prosecutor-General Alexei Kazanskii that it tried to do so.

The statement said Mr. Yeltsin had opted against an all-out war with parliament to ensure that the accused revolt leaders remained in jail "taking into account the avowed intention of the State Duma to act towards national enemies."

In approving the amnesty,



Boris Yeltsin

the legislature "thereby assumed responsibility for the possible political activity of those they amnestied," it added.

Meanwhile, a leading member of the party headed by former Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi, one of the freed leaders of the October revolt, said Mr. Rutskoi planned to run for president in 1996.

Vassili Lipitski was quoted by ITAR-TASS as saying that until then Mr. Rutskoi would be "very active" in building his party and planning his presidential campaign.

Granny spin dries granddaughter

BONN (AFP) — A six-year-old hid in the family spin drier in Bad Duerheim but her grandmother pushed the wrong button and the girl went whirling round. German police reported Monday. They rescued her shaken but unhurt, while granny fainted on the spot, police said.

China dynamites mountains to make orchards

BEIJING (R) — China's Hebei province is setting almost one million dynamite explosions in the Taihang Mountains over the next week as part of a campaign to promote more apple orchards, the Xinhua News Agency said Tuesday.

The dynamite campaign began last Friday "when thousands of explosions echoed among the hills of the Taihang Mountains," Xinhua said, adding that nearly one million blast holes filled with dynamite would be set off the March 12.

"These blasts would pave the way for the reclaiming of some 13

NEWS IN BRIEF

Seles ranking position put on ice

INDIAN WELLS, California (AFP) — The issue of where to rank Monica Seles upon her return to the WTA tour has been postponed until the former world number-one player decides when she will make a comeback. Anne Person Worcester, managing director of the Women's Tennis Council (WTC), said here Monday the Seles issue was not discussed at weekend meetings here after the group decided to wait until Seles makes her plans known. "Seles has indicated her return to the WTA tour has been postponed indefinitely," Worcester said. "The council believes it would be inappropriate to discuss the matter until Monica makes a decision concerning her return to the WTA tour." Seles was injured in a stabbing incident on court last April at a tournament in Hamburg, Germany. The question of where to place Seles in a tournament field came up when Seles appeared set to return to play earlier this year.

Kelly's back in business

PARIS (AFP) — Irish Cycling veteran Sean Kelly is back in the saddle after signing a one-year contract with French team Catavania. Kelly, who will be 38 in two months' time, will make his debut in the Paris-Nice which starts Sunday, the team's Sporting Director Alain Galopin said Tuesday. The Irishman, whose professional career began in 1977, had been widely expected to retire at the end of last season, which he finished with Italian outfit Festina.

Loughran to defend against Galloway

BELFAST (AFP) — Northern Ireland's Eamonn Loughran will make the third defence of his World Boxing Organisation (WBO) welterweight title against former champion Manning Galloway of the United States here April 16. Loughran was lined up to fight South African Gary Murray in Cape Town April 9, but that trip has fallen through because of contractual problems. Galloway held the WBO crown from 1989 until last year, when Dane Bo Jacobsen beat him, and then gave up the championship when poised to fight Loughran.

WBC orders fight for Harding's title

LAS VEGAS (R) — The World Boxing Council (WBC) has ordered a light heavyweight championship fight between Randall Yonker and Mike McCallum to replace Yonker's bout with champion Jeff Harding, who pulled out of this Friday's bout due to injury, a spokesman for promoter Don King said Monday. WBC President Jose Sulaiman's ruling restores a fifth title fight to King's Friday card at the MGM Grand Hotel. Sulaiman said Harding, who has not defended his title for more than 14 months because of contract disputes and injuries, is guaranteed a title fight when he is able to return to the ring. King's spokesman Mike Marley said, Sulaiman said the WBC rules allow the group to order "the two highest available contenders to fight for an interim title" if the champion has not defended for 12 months or longer. Harding suffered an eye injury in his final sparring session before the intended fight Friday.

Warm welcome for T and D

LONDON (AFP) — Enthusiastic fans invaded London's Heathrow Airport Monday night to cheer the return home of Britain's Olympic bronze medal figure-skaters Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean. The ice dancers were wildly cheered and applauded as they emerged into the arrivals lounge. Asked if they would compete in next month's world championships in Japan, Torvill, 35, said: "It is 50-50 at the moment." He said they would take "several days" to contemplate their futures. Many thought that the stylish couple, who have been making a remarkable comeback after winning the gold medal at the Sarajevo Games ten years ago, were cheated out of first place in Lillehammer. The score awarded them by the panel of nine judges sparked a major row about the marking system but Torvill, 36, and Dean refused to be drawn into the controversy.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & YANNAH HIRSCH
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A WISE PRECAUTION

North-South vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ Void
♥ K J 9 8
♦ K 9 8 5 4
♣ A 8 5 4

WEST
♠ 8 5 2
♥ 10 8 2
♦ A 2
♣ 10 9 8 2

EAST
♠ K Q 10 9 6 3
♥ Q 6
♦ Q 10 7
♣ 7 3

SOUTH
♠ A J 7 4
♥ A 7 5 4
♦ K J 3
♣ K J

The bidding:
East South West North
2 ♠ Dbl Pass Pass
3 NT Pass Dbl
Pass 3 NT Pass Pass

Opening lead: Right of ♠
Jeff Macintosh and Eric Rodwell have been a partnership for so long that, in bridge circles, they have come to be known by one name — Macintosh. There's hardly a bridge honor in the world that they have not achieved and, if you follow the play on this hand from the recent London Sunday Times Tournament, you will understand why.

East's opening two diamonds was a weak two in either major, and which was clarified soon enough. Macintosh would not have collected

enough from defending three spades doubled to compensate for a vulnerable game, so they pushed on to three no trump with Rodwell, South, declaring.

West led the eight of spades and East, Atta-Ullah Munir of Pakistan, encouraged with the six, an excellent play which prevented declarer from holding up. In with the jack of spades, Rodwell made the fine play of a low diamond. Had West, British internationalist Robert Sheehan, followed low, East's only entry would have been removed. Instead, he shot up with the ace of diamonds and continued with spades. Declarer held up one round and then won the ace.

At this point most declarers fell back on the heart finesse and went down two tricks when that lost. Rodwell led another diamond. Had West produced the queen, the contract would have been secure. When West followed low, declarer rose with dummy's king, hoping to drop the lady. No luck.

If West held the queen of diamonds, the contract was still safe. But before exercising that option, Rodwell cashed the ace and king of hearts. When the queen dropped, nine tricks were there for the taking — two spades, four hearts, one diamond and two clubs. A bravura display of dummy-play technique.

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Olympic reforms could strengthen Samaranch

LILLEHAMMER (AFP) — Juan Antonio Samaranch could remain president of the Olympic movement to the turn of the century if he can push through changes of the archaic body in Paris next year.

Critics say the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is undemocratic and has no public accountability.

But the 73-year-old Samaranch, bolstered by two hugely successful games in Barcelona and here in Lillehammer, believes that, like soccer supremo Joao Havelange, he still has a role to play.

The 78-year-old Brazilian, the FIFA president since 1974, said last week he would seek another four-year term in June.

And the young generation who feel they would lose out in a 1997 presidential race would be happy to see Samaranch stay a few more years while they build their power base.

Next September's congress in Paris will debate two major changes.

Olympic sources say Samaranch wants to set up a two-tier body. Rank and file members representing countries would sit in the lower house and national Olympic committee delegates and international sports federation officers would constitute the upper house.

The executive board's decision-making powers and the IOC president's authority would be reinforced.

But the one rule change which could have the biggest effect as far as Samaranch is concerned is the introduction of a term of office for all members.

That would dispense with the age limit of 74 and allow Samaranch to stand again for election at Budapest in 1997 when he would normally be ruled out.

So the response for more democracy could ironically leave Samaranch at the helm until the Sydney Games in the year 2000.

"We are debating every aspect for change," said Belgium's Jacques Rogge who is also president of the European

Association for National Olympic Committees.

Rogge is seen as one man to gain by Samaranch staying in charge longer as they would give him time to challenge longer-serving members like Canada's Dick Pound and Australia's Kevan Gosper for the top job in sport.

Olympic wheeling-and-dealing is a hard sport to read.

When an executive board proposal to cut the number of candidate cities for the 2002 winter games from 10 to two was rejected by the IOC members it was initially seen as defeat for Samaranch.

But the former Spanish ambassador to the Kremlin rarely puts his personal prestige on the line. He likes to bounce ideas off people and if he sees there is too much opposition he bends with the wind.

And the concession to his members, who get four cities instead of two to visit with their wives, may be a useful bargaining chip in future trade-offs.

Delecour in control in Portuguese Rally

LISBON (AFP) — Francois Delecour started the Portuguese Rally Tuesday just as he finished the Monte Carlo — at the front.

The Frenchman, driving a Ford Escort Cosworth, won three out of the first four special stages to open up an 18 second lead over his Italian teammate Massimo Biasion by mid-afternoon.

World champion Juha Kankkunen, winner of the day's second special, was lying third in his Toyota Celica, 20 seconds off the pace. However, the Finn is a specialist of the dirt tracks which will be used on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday's finish, rather than tarmac roads of the opening day. Andrea Aghini, also in a Toyota, was in fourth place and the two Subaru Impreza drivers — Britain's Colin McRae and Spain's former world champion Carlos Sainz — were fifth and sixth.

The only notable casualty was Carlos Menem, son of the Argentine president, whose Ford Escort was forced out with mechanical problems.



Spanish rally driver Carlos Sainz (right) and his British Subaru teammate Colin McRae pose for photographers during the preview at the Estoril track for the Portuguese Rally (AFP photo).

Delecour, who beat Kankkunen by a minute to win the Monte Carlo in January, won his first ever world championship race here last year. The rain which has bucketed down over the past few days has left the Estoril tarmac damp in places, but there were no fresh downpours. The 746 kilometres run to Povo de Varzim comprises 159 kilometres worth of specials — 11 in total.

Medvedeva's elbow survives fall to help beat Jiminez

DEL RAY, Florida (R) — Shaking off the effects of an Olympics-inspired spin of ice skating, ninth-seeded Natalia Medvedeva beat qualifier Eva Jiminez Sanz 6-1 6-1 in the first round of the \$400,000 Virginia Slims of Florida Monday.

"I was reading so much about Nancy (Keegan) and Tonya (Harding). I thought I had to go on the ice," said Medvedeva, who injured her right elbow in a skating fall last week.

"I would have only gotten a 1.0 (score from the judges). My Elbow doesn't affect my strokes, but I kind of felt it on my serve."

In another first-round match, Indonesia's Yayuk Basuki, the 11th-seed, survived a topsy-turvy 6-4 1-6 6-4 battle with Michelle Jaggard-Lai of Australia.

The top eight seeds, led by top-ranked Steffi Graf, second-ranked Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and fifth-ranked Gab-

riela Sabatini, all received first round byes. Graf and Sabatini play their second-round matches late Tuesday.

Monday night's matches were cancelled because of rain. Medvedeva won 89 per cent of her first service points in the first set, in contrast to her Spanish opponent, who won just 38 per cent of her first service points in the set.

After the 199th-ranked Jiminez Sanz held serve in the first game of the match, Medvedeva won the next five games to take the first set. Medvedeva, whose brother Andrei is ranked seventh on the men's tour, only lost four points on serve in the opening set.

Medvedeva's only let down in the match came when she lost the first game of the second set — double faulting three times in that game. She did not lose another game in the match.

Stark beats Pioline in Champions Cup

INDIAN WELLS, California (R) — Unseeded Jonathan Stark of the United States upset ninth seeded Cedric Pioline of France 6-3 6-4 in 85 minutes in the first round of the \$1,720,000 Champions Cup Monday.

Top seed Pete Sampras and fellow-American Jim Courier, the second seed and the defending champion, and third-seeded Stefan Edberg of Sweden all received first-round byes, along with the rest of the top eight seeds at the 56-player, hard court tournament.

The tournament, which features 14 of the top 18 players in the world, is the first of nine one-week, ATP tour events.

Unseeded Fabrice Santoro of France hit seven aces and scored a 6-3 7-6 (7-3) upset over countryman 14th seeded Arnaud Boetsch in a first-round contest.

Twelfth-seeded Alexander Volkov of Russia avoided up-

set with a third set rally in his victory against Nicklas Kulti of Sweden 2-6 6-1 6-3.

Stark, 36th in the world, outlasted the 12th-ranked Pioline on the key points in the first and second sets and selectively approached the net to keep Pioline from finding his rhythm.

Pioline also struggled with his serve, and despite saving 12 of 14 break points, Stark still scored one break in each set and held off Pioline's only two break opportunities with aces.

Stark, who said that he liked playing the first match of the tournament, attributed his win to his perseverance on his opponent's service games.

"I like getting to it," Stark said. "I knew if I played him tough on my service games that I could break him. I lost a lot of break point because I was going after them, but I got two and that was all I needed."

Bol, Muresan form NBA's tallest duo

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Manute Bol of Sudan stands nearly 2.3 metres. His belt is above most people's heads. In nine National Basketball Association (NBA) seasons, he never looked up at anyone.

Until now. Until George Muresan.

Bol and Muresan, who stands just above 2.3 metres, are the NBA's tallest players and Washington Bullets teammates. Muresan, a rookie from Romania, has a massive 150-kilogramme frame. Bol weighs just 100 kilograms. His long, thin legs are a stark contrast to Muresan's bulk.

"He takes a lot of pressure off my back," Bol said. "When we go to the airport and people look at us, I say, 'You think I'm big? Take a look at him.'"

When 2.1-metre centres Ralph Sampson and Hakeem Olajuwon played together in Houston, they were known as the "twin towers." Bol and Muresan could follow that tradition as the "Washington monuments." But they lack the speed for a fast-paced game. As a result, they are together only when sitting at the end of the bench.

"They couldn't be part of the transition game," coach Wes Unseld said. "The game is played between the end lines and both of them have difficulty getting from one line to the other."

Bol, who once killed a lion with a spear on the plains of his African homeland, has made his NBA reputation blocking shots. His 2.168 career blocks rank seventh on the all-time list. He made his NBA debut with Washington in 1985 and has also played at Philadelphia, Golden State and Miami. Bol works with Muresan on his defensive skills.

"I don't think George is ever going to be the shot blocker Bol is," Washington general manager John Nash said. "He doesn't have Bol's reflexes. He has some offensive abilities. But isn't as great a threat on defence."

Muresan, who played for France Pat-Orthez last season, has developed a shooting touch and found his role in the team's offense. He has earned Bol's respect.

"The big man is playing well," Bol said. "If he keeps working hard, he will be very good next year. He sets good picks, makes the turnaround jumper and the hook shot. I like the way he plays. It's almost impossible to push him out of the lane and it's even worse when he puts that weight up against you."

Cleveland's Larry Nance, a 12-year NBA veteran, compared Muresan to a mountain, saying, "He's the only guy I have played against who I

could not move. He's the biggest guy I've ever seen."

Bol, 31, began the season with the Miami Heat, but seldom played. He went longer without scoring than any other NBA player this season. Going 79 days until making two points Jan. 24. He was released the next day.

"Over the summer I was thinking of going to Europe," Bol said. "Then Miami called and said they could give me five to 10 minutes a game. But I mainly sat on the bench. I've got no problem with them wanting to develop younger players. I never thought I would be in the league this long. But I didn't want to end my career like that."

Bol returned here to his suburban home and waited. After injuries and illness sidelined

five Washington players, Bol's general manager Nash sought Bol's help.

"We were last in the league in field goals allowed and we had to do something about it," Nash said. "Manute can block shots and force teams to change their offense."

Bol's time here could be short. The Bullets only signed him to a 10-day contract. The deal expires Thursday.

"I'm just here to show people I'm not retired," Bol said. "It's better than sitting home doing nothing. It's a nice feeling to be back. I would like to stay. But whatever happens happens."

And as Washington forward Pervis Ellison joked in the locker room, "Anything can happen when Manute is in the house."

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	THELMA AND LOUISE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		ROUND TRIP TO HEAVEN Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		CONCORD '1' PASSENGER 57 Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' Nowhere To Run Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 6:30 Arabic play "Hi America" at 8:30		Opening Soon A political comedy		presents a play entitled: Al Ilm Nuron A popular political comedy Actors: Abeer Issa, Daoud Jalajel, Hassan Al Shaer, Fuad Shomali in addition to other comedians Every night at 8:15 Tickets are sold all day		Nabil and Hisham Theatre presents Ahlam Arab Summit Conference (play) daily at 9:15 p.m. Theatre is closed Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays	

